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THE
History and Antiquities
OF THE
CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF WELLS;
INCLUDING
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES AND ANECDOTES
OF THE
BISHOPS OF THE SEE OF BATH & WELLS.

BY JOHN BRITTON, F. S. A.

&c.

LONDON:
FRANCIS AND JOHN RIVINGTON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD.
WELLS:
SOLD BY THOMAS GREEN, (LATE BALL), HIGH-STREET,
AND ALL BOOKSELLERS.

MDCCCXLVII.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY H. W. BALL, WELLS.

INTRODUCTION.

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THIS little work is offered to the Public with a view to supply that which the Publisher has found very frequently inquired for—a full, cheap, and portable Guide to the History and Antiquities of this venerable Fabric; and it is hoped this desideratum is here accomplished. It is a reprint of Mr. Britton's 4to work, corrected by him and continued to the present time; and his valuable references to ancient and modern authorities are here carefully preserved, together with the Chronological Tables of the Bishops and Deans, the Catalogue of their published Portraits, and the List of Books, Essays, and Prints heretofore published relating to the Cathedral. The judicious restoration of much of the West Front, the Nave, and Lady Chapel, which is about to be extended to the Choir,^a will assuredly induce numberless admirers of this magnificent structure to visit its sacred precincts; and should this attempt to direct the attention of the reader to the principal points of interest prove successful, the object of the Publisher will be attained.

WELLS, SEPTEMBER, 1847.

^a Vide the Address to the Public, and List of Subscribers, in the Appendix.

DEAR SIR,

I cannot hesitate in giving permission to *you*, to reprint my *History and Description of Wells Cathedral*, as published in 1824, to form part of the CATHEDRAL ANTIQUITIES OF ENGLAND. It is not likely that I shall ever republish that work: indeed the Plates are so completely worn out, that I should much regret to see impressions of them in connection with my name and writings. If the literary matter be reprinted in a cheap and popular form, as a guide or hand book to the Cathedral, I will cheerfully supply you with such corrections, additions, &c. as may be deemed advisable; but I fear you will find some difficulty in separating the descriptive parts from the illustrations, as the former have constant reference to, and are intimately connected with the latter. Some additional matter will be required, both as respects the building and its monuments; and I would recommend that the very interesting paper, by my friend MR. COCKERELL, respecting the splendid West Front, be inserted; a brief account of your late Prelate will also be required to complete the series of Bishops.

Wishing you every success in this and all your relations in business and in private life,

I am,

Yours very truly,

J. BRITTON.

Burton Street, London.

January 1, 1847.

Mr. H. W. BALL, Wells.

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

OF THE

Cathedral Church of Wells.

CHAP. I.

UNCERTAINTY OF THE REMOTE HISTORY OF THIS SEE:—REPUTED INTRODUCTION OF CHRISTIANITY INTO BRITAIN BY JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA:—DUBIOUSNESS OF THE STORY OF KING LUCIUS:—ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISION OF THE WEST SAXON KINGDOM; AND SUCCESSIVE INSTITUTION OF THE SEES OF DORCHESTER, WINCHESTER, SHERBORNE, AND WELLS:—HISTORICAL PARTICULARS OF THE BISHOPRIC OF WELLS, FROM THE PERIOD OF ITS ORIGIN UNTIL THE TIME OF ITS REMOVAL TO BATH IN THE REIGN OF WILLIAM RUFUS.

THE remote history of almost all our episcopal establishments is so involved in inconsistency and fable, that a satisfactory account of their origin can seldom be obtained, and the obscurity increases as it recedes from our own times. This is peculiarly the case in respect to the See of Wells, the notices of which in our early writers are both confused and meagre; and the difficulty of determining at what period a religious foundation was established in this district, is much augmented by the questionable authenticity of different charters which are said to have been granted by the West Saxon Kings, Ina and Kenulph, or Cynwulph. There cannot, perhaps, be a greater proof of the uncertainty that

attends an inquiry into the precise era of the foundation of our episcopal sees than what arises from the conduct of William of Malmesbury, who, throughout his five books "*De Gestis Pontificum Anglorum*," has uniformly omitted dates; and although in some cases he specifies the number of years during which the prelates held their seats, he never gives the date either of their appointment, death, or removal.

It has been inferred that the Christian religion was introduced into this city from the neighbouring town of Glaston, or Glastonbury; where, if the monkish legends may be credited, it had been originally settled about the year 63, by St. Joseph, of Arimathea, who buried the body of our Saviour, and had himself been the friend and companion of St. Philip, by whom he had been despatched into Britain with eleven other disciples of that Apostle.^a These missionaries, according to the Ashmolean Manuscript, obtained, from the British King, Arviragus, permission to settle at *Ynswytryn*, or the Glassy Island, as it was called from the colour of the surrounding water; and to each person he gave for his support a hide of land;^b the whole comprising a district which thenceforward was denominated the *Twelve Hides of Glaston*, and has been so called even to the present time.^c The island, itself, afterwards received the name of *Avallon*, either from *Aval*, an apple, in which fruit it abounded; or from a British chief of that name, to whom it had belonged. Here, St. Joseph, whom the monkish historians consider as the first abbot, is reputed to have erected a chapel of *wreathed twigs*, or *twisted rods*, in honour of the Virgin Mary, which thus became the first Christian oratory in England.^d

Bishop Stillingfleet regards the tradition concerning Joseph of Arimathea as an invention of the monks of

^a *Johannis Glaston*. "Hist." ed. Hearne, vol. i. p. 1 et 48. Gul. Malm. "*Gest. Pont.*" ed. Hearne, p. 5. Glastonbury is about six miles from Wells to the south-west.

^b Dugdale's "*Monasticon Anglicanum*," vol. 1. p. 22; new edit. ex "*Hist. Eccl. Glastoniensis*," MS. in Museo Ashmoliano, Num. 790.

^c Dug. "*Mon.*" Ibid. p. 1.

^d Johan. Glaston. Hearne's edit. p. 10. Gul. Malm. "*Gest. Pont.*" p. 12. Polyd. Vergilius, "*Hist.*" fol. Basileæ, 1557, lib. iv. p. 89.

Glastonbury to serve the interests of their monastery;^e and there can be little doubt of the correctness of his opinion. Admitting, however, for the sake of argument, that a religious establishment actually existed at Glastonbury at the early period assigned, we have not the least evidence that its influence was extended beyond its original seat. But about a century afterwards, in the reign of King Lucius, to whom the monkish fabulists have given such wide-spreading domination in Britain, and that, too, at a time when the Romans are known to have been in full possession of the country, the Saints, Faganus and Deruvianus are said to have rebuilt the oratory and added another of stone, and to have extended, by their preaching, and by the influence of the king and his family, whom they had baptized, a knowledge of Christianity over the greatest part of Britain. The story of Lucius, however, is fraught with so many inconsistencies, both in respect to the state of the times, and to all we know of the principles which the Romans pursued in the government of their colonies, that the whole is rendered incredible; nor does it appear from any Roman author, that ever a prince so named was, at any time, in alliance with them, or was suffered to govern a subordinate kingdom under their prefects. The total silence, also, of the Roman historians as to any Christian hierarchy being established in this country during the three first centuries of the Roman dominion here (since it appears from Ignatius, that there could have been no church without a succession of bishops), affords a strong presumption that, in the above period, the diffusion of Christianity, in this island, was extremely limited; and that it arose more from accidental circumstances than from a settled plan of conversion.^f

^e "Origines Britannicæ," &c. p. 6. None of our more ancient historians take the least notice of the monkish tale which attributes the foundation of Glastonbury to "Joseph of Arimathea."

^f Vide, "Britton's History and Antiquities of the Cathedral Church of Winchester," chap. i., in which is given an extended inquiry into the history of Lucius, and of the first introduction of Christianity into this island; together with various particulars respecting the progress of the Christian faith in the West-Saxon kingdom.

In the "Glastonbury Chronicle," quoted by Wharton, and referred to in the "Primordia" of Archbishop Usher, it is stated that the Bishopric of Somersetshire was first instituted by the Saints Fagan and Deruvian, in the year 167, at *Kungresbury*, or *Congersbury*, (which is about two miles to the west of Wrington, and eighteen miles from Wells); and that it continued there for six hundred years and upwards, even to the time of King Ina of the West Saxons; when Bishop Daniel, with the consent of that sovereign, translated it to the village of *Tethiscine*, now called Wells.^g Neither Wharton nor Bishop Tanner, however, give the least credit to this account; and when we find it admitted by the chronicler himself, that of the many successive bishops who sat at Congersbury, nothing had been discovered either of their actions or of the times when they lived, we may naturally infer that it is altogether undeserving of belief.^h

"WELLS," says Bishop Godwin, "which was so called from its abundant springs,ⁱ and is named *Tiding-ton*, in a charter of King Edward the Confessor,^j was not a place of any extraordinary note before the time of Ina, King of the West Saxons, who built a Church

^g "Anno Domini CLXVII. Episcopatus Somersetiæ per SS. Faganum et Deruvianum sumpsit exordium, et in Kungresburiâ per multum tempus Sedes Episcopalis fuit.—In tempore autem prædicti Regis, [Ina] Daniel, qui in Cathedrâ de Kungresburiâ sedebat ultimus Sedem illam, quæ illic per DC. annos vel ampliùs remanserat, ad villam quæ tunc *Tethiscine*, nunc verò *Welles* nominatur, Inâ Rege donante, et ei consentiente, transtulit." "Angl. Sacr." pars i. p. 553.—Camden says, that *Congersbury* was so called from Congarus, a man of exemplary piety (said by Capgrave to have been the son of an Emperor of Constantinople), who lived a hermit there. "Britannia," vol. i. edit. 1789. Capgrave says, in "Vita S. Cungi," that Congersbury was a very solitary place, and had its name and renown from a religious hermit called Cungar, who, by the gift of King Ina, had the adjacent territory: and here, about the year 711 (see Cressy's "Church History"), founded a Collegiate church for twelve canons, to the honour of the Holy Trinity. There is an important chronological error in the account of Cungar, who is said to have received the blessing of St. Dubritius, Bishop of Llandaff, though the latter quitted that See in the year 512. Vide "Notitia Monastica," in Somersetshire.

^h "—sederunt itaque in eadem Sede plurimi Pontifices successivè usque ad tempus Inæ Regis West-Saxonum; quorum numerum, gesta et tempora nusquam reperimus descripta."—"Angl. Sacr." pars i. p. 553.

ⁱ "Villa à copia fonticulorum sic dicta." "De Præsulibus Angliæ," p. 363. edit. 1743.

^j Vide Dugdale's "Monasticon," vol. ii. Num. II. p. 286. edit. 1819.

there, and dedicated it in honour of St. Andrew, A. D. 704." In this account most writers agree; but with the addition, that Ina's church was Collegiate only, and that the Bishopric of Wells was not founded till the reign of Edward the Elder, in the beginning of the tenth century. There is extant, however, in William of Malmesbury's "*De Antiquitate Glastoniensis Ecclesiæ*," and in some copies of his "*De Gestis Regum Anglorum*," a very full charter of privileges, which King Ina is affirmed to have granted to the monastery of Glastonbury in the year 725; and from which, if the *charter be not a forgery*, the existence of an episcopal see at Wells prior to that date, may be distinctly inferred, although it is not directly asserted.

As the subject is curious in itself, and as Dugdale and his recent editors have given the charter at length, but without any remark as to its style or presumed spuriousness, or connecting it in any way with the institution of this see, the most material parts of it, including those which particularly refer to Wells, will be here inserted, and the question as to its authenticity will be afterwards examined; the early history of this Church being particularly involved in the decision of that question.

After stating, among other circumstances, that the ancient Church of the eternal Virgin at Glastonbury was sanctified by Christ and his Angels, by many and unheard-of miracles—" *multis et inauditis miraculis*"—the charter proceeds to confirm to that Church in the fullest manner all former grants of lands and privileges, and to exempt both it and its dependent chapels from all secular and ecclesiastical services, and all visitations whatsoever, but those which the abbot and his brethren should agree to:—"And whatsoever questions," it continues, "shall arise, whether of homicide, sacrilege, poison, theft, rapine, the disposal and limits of churches, the ordination of clerks, ecclesiastical synods, and all judicial inquiries, they shall be determined by the decision of the Abbot and Convent, without the interference of any person whatsoever. Moreover, I command all my sub-kings, archbishops, bishops, dukes, and

governors, as they tender my honour and regard, and all dependants, mine as well as theirs, as they value their personal safety, never to dare enter the island of our Lord Jesus Christ, and of the eternal Virgin, at Glastonbury, nor the possessions of the said Church, for the purpose of holding courts, making inquiry, or seizing, or doing any thing whatever to the offence of the servants of God there residing: moreover, I particularly inhibit, by the *curse* of Almighty God, of the eternal Virgin Mary, and of the holy apostles Peter and Paul, and of the rest of the saints, any bishop, on any account whatever, from presuming to take his episcopal seat, or celebrate divine service, or consecrate altars, or dedicate churches, or ordain, or do any thing whatever, either in the Church of Glastonbury itself or in its dependent churches, that is to say Sowey, Brente, Merlinch, Sapewic, Stret, Sbudecalech, Pilton, or in their chapels, or islands, unless he be specially invited by the abbot or brethren of that place. But if he come upon such invitation, he shall take nothing to himself of the things of the Church, nor of the offerings; knowing that he has two mansions appointed him out of this Church's possessions, one in *Poelt*, the other in the village called *Pilton*, that, when coming and going, he may have a place of entertainment: nor even shall it be lawful for him to pass the night in this place, unless he be detained by stress of weather, or bodily sickness, or be invited by the abbot and his brethren; and then with not more than three or four clerks. Moreover, let the aforesaid bishop be mindful every year, with his clerks that are at Wells, to acknowledge his mother Church of Glastonbury with Litanies, on the second day after our Lord's Ascension. But should he, inflated with pride, defer it, or prevaricate in the things which are above recited and confirmed, he shall forfeit the mansions above mentioned; and the abbot and his monks shall direct whatever bishop they please, who celebrates Easter canonically, to perform service in the church of Glastonbury, its dependent churches, and in their chapels. Whosoever shall hereafter, on any occasion whatsoever, attempt to pervert

or nullify this the testament of my munificence and liberality, let him know that with the traitor Judas, to his eternal confusion, he shall perish in the devouring flames of unspeakable torments. The charter of this donation and privilege was written in the year of our Lord's Incarnation 725, the 4th of the Indiction; in the presence of King Ina, and of Beorthwald, Archbishop of Canterbury, the venerable prelates Daniel and Fordred, and others whose names are underneath. I, Ina, King, with my own hand subscribe this donation and liberty; and ratify it under the seal of the Holy Cross. I, Edelburg, Queen, consent to it. I, Baldred, King, confirm it. I, Adelard, brother to the Queen, consent. I, Beorthwald, Archbishop of the church of Canterbury, King Ina's donation and liberty, under the seal of the Holy Cross, corroborate. I, Daniel, Inspector of God's People, acquiesce. I, Fordred, Bishop, with the mark of the Cross impress it. Waldhere, Prefect; Brutus, Prefect; Ethelheard; Umming, Prefect; Winchelin, Earl, with all the people present, consent to and confirm it."^k

From the mention of the "Bishop," in this record, so immediately in connection with that of "his clerks who are at Wells,"^l it may fairly be argued that his episcopal seat was there likewise; and particularly so from the circumstance that both Poelt and Pilton (assuming the former place to have been afterwards called *Poelt'sham*, and now *Polesham*) are situated on and near two roads which communicate between Wells and Glastonbury.^m But this inference, though it accords with the chronicle before quoted, in regard to the existence of a bishop's see at Wells, in King Ina's time, cannot be deemed valid, if the charter itself be spurious; which, from the following considerations, it unquestionably appears to be.

^k Vide the original Latin in Dugdale's "Monasticon," vol. i. Num. VII. p. 25.

^l "Hoc etiam provideat idem Episcopus, ut singulis annis cum Clericus suis qui *Fontanetum* sunt,"—&c.

^m Wells, Glastonbury, and Pilton, may be described as situated at the angles of a triangle; Wells being towards the north, Glastonbury to the south-west, and Pilton to the south-east.

It must be evident that the decided intention of the charter was to exempt the possessions of the Church of Glastonbury from every kind of subjection and service whatever, whether due to the prelacy or to the crown; and more particularly, so far as words could secure them, from the visitations and control of the bishops of the diocese wherein the monastic estates lay; and which estates, as named in this instrument, were all in Somersetshire. This total freedom from episcopal jurisdiction was an object which the Glastonbury monks had always at heart; yet notwithstanding the full and express terms by which the dependent Churches of Glastonbury are exempted in the charter, we learn from Collinson, that the jurisdiction over those very parishes was the subject of a four hundred and fifty years controversy between the monks of that monastery and the bishops of the diocese.ⁿ It may be concluded therefore, either that the alleged charter was not in existence at the time of the dispute, or that the prelates who were contending for supremacy, gave no credit to its genuineness.

That the monks of different establishments were, occasionally, at least, employed in fabricating charters, to free their possessions both from secular claims and ecclesiastical authority, is most certain. Dugdale, speaking of these ancient deeds, expressly states, in the preface to his "*Monasticon*," that "the older they pretend to be, the more they are to be suspected;" and although Mabillon controverts this, as creating too general a suspicion of the validity of monastic records, he is obliged, at the conclusion of his discourse, to rest his vindication of the monks, on "the commonness of the fault in elder times."^o

But the charter, attributed to Ina, presents other marks of forgery than those merely of suspicion. He addresses his sub-kings, archbishops, bishops, dukes, and others, as familiarly as though the whole kingdom was already subject to Wessex; and which we know

ⁿ "*History of Somersetshire*," vol. ii. p. 241.

^o "*De Re Diplomat.*" lib. iii. c. vi. n. 10.

was not the case till more than a century afterwards. The East-Angles, it is true, had submitted to Ina's power, and the Kentish people had purchased a peace at the expense of 30,000 marks of gold; but this was far from giving him that extensive predominancy which the charter implies. Not a single archbishop was included in his dominions; and as for Baldred, the king whose signature is affixed to the document in question, the only sovereign of that name mentioned by our ancient historians, was that "abortion of royal dignity," as Malmesbury calls him, who was expelled from Kent by Egbert in 823; nearly one hundred years after Ina's decease. The general style and phraseology of the charter are also far more diffuse than the authenticated grants of the period; and what is still more conclusive of forgery, the years of the Indiction and Incarnation do not agree, the former in A.D. 725, being *eight*, and not *four*, as stated in this fabricated record. We have, therefore, no certain testimony of the establishment of a bishop's see at Wells in Ina's time; nor is there, indeed, any other evidence of that monarch having actually founded a Collegiate Church in this city, than what arises from the general current of tradition and probability, unsupported, however, by any contemporary document.

The endowments of Ina's establishment which is said to have originally included only four canons, were, according to a charter given as authentic by Bishop Godwin,^p considerably augmented by King Kenulph in 766; but Wharton and Tanner regard it as spurious, and the latter refers to Dr. Hickes's "Thesaurus," in proof of that learned inquirer being of the same opinion.^q Wharton says, that if Godwin had "considered the bishops subscribing to it, and compared the years of the Incarnation and Indiction, he might have easily perceived it to be a forgery."^r Both Leland and Camden.

^p "De Præsulibus Angliæ," p. 363. edit. 1743.

^q "Notitia Monastica," under Wells, note *t*. The reference given to the preface of the "Thesaurus" is, however, incorrect, for no mention of Kenulph's charter is therein made.

^r "Angl. Sacra.," pars i. p. 553. *a*.

however, have noticed it without questioning its authenticity; although there can be no doubt of the correctness of Wharton's opinion. By that charter, eleven manses, or farms, in the neighbourhood of Wells, adjacent to the river of *Welwe*, are granted to increase the monastery situated near the great spring called *Wielea*.

Having thus far traced the presumed origin of this see, and endeavoured to investigate the truth of the early traditions concerning it, we arrive at more sure ground; and are enabled by the general testimony of ancient authors to pursue its more certain history through the Saxon period, and till the time of its removal to Bath after the Norman conquest.

This diocese formed a part of the West Saxon kingdom, which was converted to Christianity by an Italian bishop named *Birinus*, who, according to that most valuable of all our ancient records, the "Saxon Chronicle," first preached baptism to the West Saxons in 634.^s He was advised to visit Britain by Pope Honorius, to whom he had promised, says Bede,^t to "sow the seed of the Holy Faith, in the inner parts, beyond the dominions of the English, where no other teacher had been before him.—But coming into Britain, and first entering the nation of the *Gevisseans* [West Saxons], and finding all there most confirmed Pagans, he thought it more beneficial to preach the word of God among them, than to proceed further in search of others." In the following year, Cynegils, who, with Cwichelm his son, reigned jointly over the West Saxons, was baptized at *Dorchester*, in Oxfordshire, where Cwichelm appears to have kept his Court.

Cynegils, and Oswald his sponsor, the pious king of the Northumbrians, gave Dorchester to Birinus, "there to settle his episcopal see;"^u but this seems to have been only a provisional arrangement until a cathedral church, of which Cynegils had laid the foundations, was completed at *Venta Belgarum*, or Winchester, where the royal palace was situated. Birinus was succeeded by

^s "Saxon Chronicle," p. 35, Ingram's edit.
lib. iii. c. vii.

^t "Hist. Ecclesiasticæ,"

^u Bede's "Hist. Eccl." lib. iii. c. vii.

Agelbert, or *Egilbert*, in 650, a native of France, who had long studied in the distinguished schools of Ireland; but his foreign accents proving offensive to Kenwal, or Kenwalsh, the son and successor of Cynegils, that king, anno 660, divided his province into two dioceses; assigning to the See of Dorchester the jurisdiction over the northern part of Wessex, and establishing a new see, for the southern part, at Winchester, of which he appointed *Wina*, a Saxon, who had received ordination in France, the first bishop. Egilbert being highly offended at this division, quitted the kingdom, and Wina became bishop of both sees; but about three years afterwards, he was expelled by the king, who kept the bishopric vacant for several years: at length, alarmed by defeats in battle, and other adversities, which he attributed to his neglect of religion, he sent messengers to request the return of Egilbert, who was at that time bishop of Paris. Egilbert declined the invitation, but recommended the appointment of *Lothere*,^v or *Leutherius*, his nephew; who was accordingly consecrated Bishop of the West Saxons, by Archbishop Theodore, in the year 670.^w He was succeeded in 676, by *Headda*, or *Hedda*, by whom the episcopal seat was formally translated to Winchester: at the same time he removed to the latter city the sainted remains of Birinus, which had been interred in his original church at Dorchester.* *Hedda* died in the year 703, according to the "Saxon Chronicle," though Matthew of Westminster places his decease in 704, and Bede in 705; but the first date is most probably the correct one, as the above record adds, that he had held the see "twenty-seven winters," which agrees with the time of his appointment.

After Hedda's decease, king Ina again divided the West Saxon diocese into two distinct sees: this, according to Bishop Godwin, was effected by his own

^v Vide "Saxon Chronicle," sub. anno 670.

^w In the grant of Malmesbury to Aldhelm, the Priest Leutherius, afterwards Bishop of Sherborne, styles himself 'Supreme Bishop of the Saxon See.' Vide, Gul. Malm. in "De Gest. Reg."

^x Some particulars of this very curious edifice will be found in the "History of Winchester Cathedral," p. 24. n. 37.

authority, but William of Malmesbury states it to have been done by an episcopal synod.^y The new see was fixed at *Sherborne*, in Dorsetshire, near the southern verge of Somersetshire; which county, together with those of Berks, Dorset, Wilts, Devon, and Cornwall, were assigned to its jurisdiction. This division, according to the "Saxon Chronicle," was made in the "first days" of Bishop *Daniel*, who succeeded Hedda in the See of Winchester; he had been a monk in the celebrated scholastic foundation at Malmesbury, and was a fellow student with the learned *Aldhelm*, who was appointed the first bishop of Sherborne. This prelate is spoken of in the most exalted terms both by Bede and Malmesbury; the former characterizes him as "wonderful for ecclesiastical and liberal erudition;"^z and the latter states, that he had "a mind clear, and almost divinely inspired."^a He is said to have been nearly related to king Ina; but Malmesbury argues against the asserted opinion of his being the nephew of that sovereign.^b He died in the year 709, and was succeeded by *Forthere*, or *Fordhere*; in whose time, as stated by Bede, it was decreed in a synod, that the province of the South Saxons, which had been overrun by the kings of Wessex, should have "a bishop of its own:" and accordingly an episcopal see was instituted at *Selsey*, or *Seolsey*, on the coast of Sussex; which was eventually transferred to Chichester. In 737, Bishop *Forthere* accompanied Queen *Frithogitha* to Rome, where he is supposed to have terminated his earthly pilgrimage.

But little is known of the four immediate successors

^y "Angl. Sacr." pars ii. p. 20.

^z "Hist. Ecclesiasticæ," b. v. c. xix.

^a "De Gest. Reg." b. i. c. ii.

^b Ibid. See also, "Vitâ S. Aldhelmi;" in "Angl. Sacr." pars ii, p. 2. In the new edition of Dugdale, Vol. I. p. 330. note h. it is erroneously said, that Malmesbury calls Aldhelm the son of Kenred, brother of King Ina. On the contrary, he expressly states, on the authority of the "Saxon Chronicle," that "Ina had no other brother than Inigild, who died some years before him." Aldhelm is reputed to be the first Englishman who wrote in Latin; and he himself acquaints us, in one of his Treatises on Music, that he was the first who introduced poetry into England. Several manuscripts of his Treatise, "De Laude Virginitatis," as old as the eighth century, are preserved in our Public Libraries.

of Forthere, viz. *Herewald*, *Ethelmod*, *Denefrith*, and *Wilbert*, or *Wigbert*, the latter of whom, in the "Saxon Chronicle," under the date 812, is styled Bishop of Wessex: in that year he accompanied Wulfred, archbishop of Canterbury, on a journey to Rome. *Ealhstan*, who was the next bishop of Sherborne, was a famous warrior.^c In 823, he accompanied the army which was sent by Ecgbryht, or Egbert, against Baldred, king of Kent, who was driven from his dominions, and both Kent and Essex submitted to the West Saxons. He was also engaged in many successful battles against the Danes, one of the most considerable of which was fought in the year 845, when "Alderman Eanwulf, with the men of Somersetshire, and Bishop Ealhstan and Alderman Osric, with the men of Dorsetshire, fought at the mouth of the Parret with the Danish army; and there, after making a great slaughter, obtained the victory."^d Malmesbury says, that on Ethelwulf's going to Rome, in 854, this bishop set up his son Ethelbald against him; and the king, on his return, to avoid the shedding of human blood, consented to divide the kingdom with his rebellious son.^e Ealhstan died in 867, having possessed his see during "fifty winters."^f *Edmund*, or *Headmund*, his successor, was slain in battle by the Danes at *Meredune*, probably Merdon, in Wiltshire, in the year 871. Of his successors, *Etheleage* and *Alfsy*, or *Alfsius*, nothing is recorded. The next bishop was the celebrated *Asserius Menevensis*, who was advanced from Exeter to Sherborne by the great Alfred, with whom he lived on the most friendly and familiar terms.^g He was a native of South Wales, and was brought up in the monastery of St. David's; Novis, the archbishop, being his near relation. His tutor was the famous Johannes Patricius, one of the most accomplished scholars of that age. From the reputation of his great learning, King Alfred invited him to

^c "Ealhstanus bellator fuit strenuissimus." Vide Godwin, "De Præsul. Ang." p. 331. ^d "Saxon Chronicle," p. 92. Ingram's edit.

^e "De Gest. Pont" c. ii. and "De Gest Reg." b. ii c. ii.

^f "Saxon Chronicle," sub. anno 867.

^g Vide Wise's "Ann. Rer. Gest. Ælfredi Magni, auct. Asser Menevens.

his court; and he became an instructor both to that sovereign and to his children. Godwin says, that Alfred gave him the manors of Wellington, Buckland, and Lidyard, in Somersetshire, which afterwards came into the possession of the bishops of Wells:^h that king also bestowed on him two monasteries, viz. Banwell, in Somersetshire; and another, said to be Amesbury, in Wiltshire, but supposed by Tanner to have been Congresbury, in this district.ⁱ Godwin places his death in 883, but the "Saxon Chronicle" expressly states, that Asser, who "was at Sherborne bishop, died in 910."^j The principal writings attributed to him are a Chronicle of St. Neot's, a Life of King Alfred, Annals of Britain, and an Enchiridion: all which are in Latin. King Alfred, by his will, gave 100 mancuses to the Bishop of Sherborne, but makes no mention of his name.

Asser was succeeded by *Swithelm*, or *Sighelm*, but at what date is uncertain; the years 883, 884, 885, and 889 having all been assigned as the time. This prelate was sent to India by King Alfred, for the purpose of conveying to the shrine of St. Thomas the alms and oblations which that monarch had vowed to present whilst engaged in hostilities with the Danes at London. Dr. Vincent, when speaking of Sighelm's journey, in his "Voyage of Nearchus," says, "I wish I had more authority for this than the tradition of Sherborne: for Alfred deserves any honour that can be added to his name." The bishop's embassy, however, is attested by so many of our ancient chroniclers that there is very little reason to question the fact, however extraordinary such a journey in that early age may appear. The "Saxon Chronicle," Florence of Worcester, Radulph de Diceto, Brompton, Henry of Huntingdon, Alured of Beverley, Matthew of Westminster, and William of Malmesbury, all agree in their notice of the fact. Malmesbury, whose

^h "De Præsul. Angliæ." p. 332.

ⁱ "Notitia Monastica;" under Ambresbury.

^j Whitaker, in his "Life of St. Neot," p. 222, et seq., concludes that Asser, bishop of Sherborne, and Asser, the monk of St. David's and friend of Alfred, were different persons,

account is the fullest, thus speaks of the journey.—“ Ever intent on alms-giving, Alfred confirmed the privileges of the churches, as appointed by his father; and sent many presents over sea to Rome, and to St. Thomas in India. Sighelm, Bishop of Sherborne, was his ambassador, who with great success penetrated to India, to the admiration even of the present age. Returning thence, he brought back many brilliant exotic gems and aromatic juices, with which that country abounds; and also a present far more precious than the finest gold, part of our Saviour's cross sent by Pope Marinus to the king.”^k In another place he says, that some of those gems were to be seen, in his days, in the monuments of the church at Sherborne.^l The “ Saxon Chronicle” although it mentions nothing of the jewels and aromatics brought from India, is decisive as to the fact of the embassy.^m Nothing further is known of Sighelm, nor has the period of his decease been ascertained. He was succeeded by *Ethelwold*, or *Ethelward*, who is said, by Godwin, to have been a younger son of King Alfred, and educated at Oxford: he died in 898. After his decease the see continued vacant for several years.

We are now arrived at the period when, according to the general current of history, the SEE OF WELLS was actually instituted: this was in the reign of Edward the Elder, the son and successor of the great Alfred; but the year is doubtful, some writers fixing it in 905. and others in 909, and 910. The immediate cause of this new division of the West Saxon States, in respect to ecclesiastical affairs, is attributed to an *interdict* which had been issued by Pope Formosus against the king and his subjects, for neglecting to supply the episcopal vacancies which had taken place in his dominions.

^k “ De Gest. Reg.” p. 44.

^l “ De Gest. Pont.” p. 248.

^m A. D. 883.—The same year led Sighelm and Athelstan to Rome, the alms which King Alfred ordered thither, and also in India to St. Thomas and to St. Bartholomew.” Ingram's edit. Gibbon says, “ When the Portuguese first opened the navigation of India, the Christians of St. Thomas had been seated for ages on the coast of Malabar.” “ Decline of Rom. Emp.” vol. iv. p. 599 4to. An interesting discussion as to the reality of Sighelm's journey will be found in Turner's “ History of the Anglo Saxons,” vol. i. b. 5. edit. 1807.

The account of this transaction, as given by William of Malmesbury, is as follows :

“ In the year of our Lord’s nativity 904, Pope Formosus sent letters into England, by which he denounced excommunication and malediction to King Edward and all his subjects, instead of the benediction which St. Gregory had given to the English nation from the seat of St. Peter ; because for seven whole years, the entire district of the Gevisi, that is, of the West Saxons, had been destitute of bishops. On hearing this, King Edward assembled a council of the senators of the English, over which presided Plegmund, Archbishop of Canterbury, interpreting carefully the words of the apostolic legation. Then the king and the bishops chose for themselves and their followers a salutary council ; and, according to our Saviour’s words, ‘ The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few,’ they elected and appointed one bishop to every province of the Gevisi, and that district which two formerly possessed they divided into five. The council being dissolved, the archbishop went to Rome with splendid presents ; appeased the Pope with much humility, and related the king’s ordinance, which gave the pontiff great satisfaction. Returning home, in one day he ordained, in the city of Canterbury, seven bishops to seven churches ; Fridstan to the church at Winchester, Adelstan to Cornwall, Wirstan to Shireburn, *Athelelm to Wells*, Aidulf to Crediton in Devonshire : also to other provinces he appointed two bishops ; to the South Saxons, Berneus, a very proper person, and to the Mercians, Cenulph, whose see was at Dorchester in Oxfordshire. All this the Pope established, in such wise, that he who should invalidate this decree should be damned everlastingly.”ⁿ

ⁿ Malm. “ De. Gest. Reg.” Sharpe’s translation, p. 146, 147. Malmesbury introduces his relation in the following manner, but he does not refer to the particular source of his information :—“ But to return to our Edward : I think it will be pleasing to relate what in his time Pope Formosus commanded to be done with respect to filling up the bishoprics, which I shall insert in the very words I found it.” Mr. Sharpe, in a note on Malmesbury, remarks :—“ This story of Pope Formosus and the seven bishops is to be found, nearly verbatim, in a MS. (Bodley, 579) which was given to the

The pope's missive is inserted at length in Wilkins' "Concilia,"^o from Baronius, collated with the Canterbury Manuscript, A. folio 3; but it makes no mention of the West Saxon kingdom having been without a bishop during seven years; and even Lingard, though contending for the genuineness of the epistle, admits that story to have been "a fiction, invented probably to explain the origin of the complaint contained in the letter of Formosus;"^p which in substance was this, that "by the negligence of the prelates the superstitions of paganism had been permitted to revive, and several dioceses been left, for a considerable period, destitute of pastors."^q

It is a very singular fact, that no account of the consecration by Plegmund, of seven bishops in one day, can be found in the "Saxon Chronicle;" nor has any place been assigned for the meeting of the council or synod, in which the king and the archbishop are stated to have determined on the important act of creating three new bishoprics. The causes generally assigned

Cathedral of Exeter by Bishop Leofric, who died A. D. 1073. Its difficulties therefore are not to be imputed to our author. But, though it be not easy to assign a rational motive for the invention of such an instrument, it is decidedly a forgery, and all the ecclesiastical writers from Baronius to Wilkins (see Concilia, vol. i. p. 201) have utterly failed in their conjectural attempts to uphold it: even the temperate, the acute, the learned Henry Wharton (Angl. Sacr. vol. i. pp. 554-5), who rejects decidedly the epistle, gives but an unsatisfactory solution of the seven vacant sees. Its repugnancies will be seen at a glance, when it is recollected that Formosus died A. D. 896: Edward did not reign till A. D. 901; and Frithstan did not become Bishop of Winchester before A. D. 910."

^o Vide vol. i. pp. 200, 201.

^p "Antiquities of the Anglo-Saxon Church," p. 168. edit. 1810. "I ascribe the epistle to Formosus," says this writer, "not merely on the authority of Malmesbury and the Register of Canterbury, but principally on that of Eadmer, who, during the dispute respecting the precedence of Canterbury in the commencement of the twelfth century, appears to have consulted the ancient records of that church, and to have discovered this letter and some others among a greater number which age had rendered illegible. Eadm. Nov. l. v. pp. 128, 129."

^q "A. D. DCCCCI. Edwardus cognomento Senior," &c. "cujus anno iv. sc. A. D. DCCCCV. Formosus Papa propter magnam, carentiam Episcoporum in Angliâ per literas suas Apostolicas Regi et populo Anglorum directas maledictionem, suam transmisit loco benedictionis, quam olim sanctas Papa Gregorius illuc transmiserat: cò quòd in pluribus locis Ecclesiæ Cathedrales in Angliâ vii. annis fuerunt Episcoporum solatio destitutæ." See "Angl. Sacr." pars. i. p. 554. ex Canon Wellensis de Epis. Bathon. et Wellens. It is clear that this account was wholly derived from Will. of Malmesbury: the Canon of Wells had never seen the epistle ascribed to Formosus.

for this measure are decidedly fanciful; for the *swine-herd* Denulf, or Denewulf,^r whom Alfred had made Bishop of Winchester in 879, did not die until 909,^s nor Asser of Sherborne until the following year.^t Florence of Worcester and many of our best historians are silent respecting the letter of Formosus, which in itself, however, does not contain those chronological discrepancies which Malmesbury and others, by describing it as sent to Plegmund in the reign of Edward the Elder, and by confining a general complaint to the province of the Gevisi, have contributed to involve it in. The only names mentioned in it, are those of Formosus and Plegmund; nor is there any date either of the Incarnation or Indiction, to enable us to determine the year in which it was transmitted.^u The discriminating Johnson, in his "Collection of Ecclesiastical Laws," allows it to be genuine; though, with a departure from his usual acumen, he recommends the substitution of the name of Sergius for Formosus, remarking that it could be no wonder if the monks chose to report this papal act as done by Formosus, who was a popular pope, rather "than by such a monster of a man, and pope, as Sergius proved."^v The only way, perhaps, to reconcile the contradictory statements, which this epistle has given rise to, is by concluding that it was actually written by Formosus, but in consequence of the distracted state of the country, from the repeated invasions of the Danish hordes, was not acted on till the year 909 or 910.

The Canon of Wells,^w who falls into the general error of the seven years destitution of episcopacy in Wessex, mentions the appointment by King Edward

^r Godwin "De Præsul. Angliæ," p. 207.

^s Vide Ingram's "Saxon Chron." p. 127.

^t Ibid.

^u In the introduction to the Formosian Epistle, in the Canterbury Register referred to by Wilkins ("Concilia," vol i. p. 200), the date stated is 905.

^v Vide "Ecclesiastical Laws," vol. i. sub. A. D. 908. On that principle, however, all credit in ancient ecclesiastical monuments would be destroyed; for if we admit that the monks would insert the name of one Pontiff for another, who might be held in greater repute, it becomes obviously impossible to determine the limits to which their falsifications might be extended.

^w Vide "Angl. Sacr." pars i. p. 555.

and Plegmund, of four bishops to the Sees of Dorchester, Selsey, Winchester, and Sherborne. He next states, that the said king and bishop also converted the three Collegiate churches of St. German, in Cornwall; of the Holy Cross, at Crediton, in Devonshire; and of St. Andrew, at Wells, into Cathedrals: and that they made *Athelm*, Abbot of Glastonbury, the first Bishop of Wells, assigning to him all Somersetshire for his diocese; the time of these transactions he fixes in 905.

In the list of the Abbots of Glastonbury, inserted in Dugdale's "Monasticon," the name of *Athelm*, *Athelmus*, or *Adelm*, thus variously written by different authors, does not occur; and Brompton positively affirms that at the period assigned, there was no such monk on that establishment.^x After the decease of Plegmund in 923, *Athelm* was advanced to the See of Canterbury, and he died in the following year. *Wulfhelm*, his successor both at Wells and Canterbury, is represented as a man of great sanctity and learning, and his presiding at several synods after his promotion to the archiepiscopal dignity in 925,^y in which a code of civil and ecclesiastical laws was framed by King Athelstan and his council,^z seems to confirm that character. He went to Rome in 927,^a and died in 938, having held the archbishopric thirteen years.^b Of his successor *Elphege* *Elfege*, or *Ælfheah*, as he is called in the "Textus Roffensis," nothing is recorded but the name; nor is *Wulfhelm*, the next bishop, better known, though his signature has been forged to a pretended charter of King Athelstan's to the monastery at Malmesbury. *Brithelm*, or *Brihtelm*, the fifth bishop, a monk of Glastonbury, according to Godwin, was raised to this see in 958. In the following year he was promoted to Canterbury; but although a good and prudent man, his temper

^x Vide "Dec. Scrip." col. 838.

^y "Saxon Chronicle."

^z Johnson's "Eccle. Laws." sub. an. 925 et 926. Wilkins's "Concilia," vol. i. p. 20.

^a "Saxon Chronicle."

^b Malm. "De Gest. Pont." Wharton in his remarks on the entry of this prelate's death in the "Dies obituales Archiepis. Cantuar." says that *Athelmus* and *Wlfelmus* are frequently confounded by historians. "Angl. Sacr." pars i. p. 53.

was too mild for government,^c and he was prevailed on by King Edgar to relinquish his archiepiscopal see in favour of the celebrated Dunstan. He then returned to Wells, where he continued to preside till his decease, on the 15th of May, 973. He appears to have been the first prelate that was buried in this Cathedral. His memory is chiefly remarkable from his having made Glastonbury an archdeaconry,^d to be governed by a monk who should be chosen annually by the convent.

Kyneward, Abbot of Milton, became Bishop of Wells in the year succeeding Brithelm's decease. According to the "Saxon Chronicle," which calls him "*Cyneward*, the good prelate, of manners mild," he died on the 18th of July, anno 975, ten days after the death of King Edgar: by other writers his decease has been incorrectly assigned to the year 985. *Sigar*, the next bishop, was Abbot of Glastonbury, to which he had been appointed in 972, and which he continued to hold, together with his see,^e till his decease on June the 18th, 997: in 995, as appears from the "Textus Roffensis," he subscribed to a charter granted by King Ethelred. *Alwyn*, *Adelwyn*, or *Ealwyn*, the next bishop, died about the year 1000.^f His successor *Burwold* is wholly unnoticed by William of Malmesbury; but he is found commemorated in the Martyrology of this Church, and his name is said, by the Canon of Wells, to be inscribed on a tomb here.^g He could have possessed the see but a short time; the name of *Livingus* or *Leovingus*, who is also called *Elstan* or *Elstanus*, his successor, being affixed to two charters of King Ethelred, dated in 1001 and 1002. He was promoted by that sovereign to the See of Canterbury in 1013, after the cruel murder of Archbishop Elphege by the Danes, at Greenwich, in the preceding year: he died in 1019, according to the "Saxon Chronicle," which characterizes him as a "very upright man before God and before the world." *Ethelwyn* or *Agelwinus*, Abbot of Evesham, was the next

^c Godwin "De Præsul. Angliæ." p. 51.

^d "Angl. Sacra." pars i. p. 557.

^e Ibid, note b.

^f Ibid, note h.

^g Ibid.

bishop, and his name is affixed to a charter granted by King Cnute to the Cathedral at Exeter in 1019.^h He was supplanted by *Brithwyn*, who, in 1023, assisted in removing the remains of Archbishop Elphege, who was eventually canonized, from the church of St. Paul, London, to Canterbury.ⁱ *Brithwyn* was ejected, in his turn, by *Ethelwyn*, but they both died soon afterwards, in 1026; the former surviving his brother prelate only thirteen days:^j they are reputed to have been buried in this Church. *Merehwit* or *Merewhit*, Abbot of Glastonbury, who is said to have been also called *Brithwin*,^k was next promoted to this see in 1027. He was a native of Loraine, and dying in 1033, according to the "Saxon Chronicle," but Malmesbury says in 1034, was interred at Glastonbury. *Dudoc*, or *Dudocus*, another native of Loraine, according to some writers, but others, including the Canon of Wells, say of Saxony in Germany, succeeded to the vacant bishopric, which he held during twenty-seven years seven months and seven days,^l and then dying, anno 1060, was buried in his own Church. This prelate, together with *Wlfric*, Abbot of St. Augustin's, and *Elfwin*, Abbot of Ramsey, were sent by King Edward the Confessor to the great Synod which Pope Leo had convened at St. Remy, or Rheims, in 1049; "with the intent that they should report to the king what was determined there concerning Christendom."^m He is said to have obtained from that sovereign the manor of Congresbury for himself and for his successors.

After the death of *Dudoc*, it is stated in the "Saxon Chronicle," that "*Gisa*, the priest, was appointed in his stead." This prelate, who is more generally called *Giso*, was a native of St. Trudo, a village in the district of Hasban, in Loraine. At the time of his appointment he was Chaplain to King Edward the Confessor, by whom he had been sent, with other prelates, on a

^h Dugdale's "Monasticon," vol. ii. p. 536, edit. 1819.

ⁱ "Saxon Chronicle," p. 203, 204. Ingram's edit. King Cnute was present at the removal, with the Queen and most of his court.

^j "Angl. Sacr." pars i. p. 558.

^k Dugdale's "Monasticon," vol. ii. p. 275.

^l "Angl. Sacr." pars i. p. 558.

^m "Saxon Chronicle," sub. anno 1049.

mission to Rome, for the purpose of having certain doubts resolved on the subject of religion. He was consecrated in that city on Easter day, viz. the 17th of the kal. of May, 1060,ⁿ together with Walter, Bishop of Hereford; "they being men," says William of Malmesbury, "not only learned, but of good conversation, and not guilty of simoniacal practices."^o This praise is given to distinguish their conduct from that of Archbishop Aldred, who had been advanced to the See of Canterbury, through the *purchased* influence of Earl Tosti, and was permitted by King Edward to hold the Bishopric of Worcester *in commendam*, by alleging the example of his predecessors. The pope, however, had refused him consecration; and he was returning home, in great dudgeon, in company with the earl and the other bishops, when, on crossing the Alps, they were despoiled by banditti, "who left them neither horse nor money, nor any thing money-worth but their apparel."^p This occurrence constrained them to go back to Rome "to furnish them anew for their journey." When there, the indignant Tosti, "with open mouth exclaimed against the pope, saying—'there was no reason that farre remote nations should so greatly stand in awe of his excommunications, which theeves and robbers cared not a halfpenny for; but contemned openly and derided even under his nose, that among poor priests he would play *Rex*, but let rebellious varlets do what they list.'"^q He also threatened that, if their losses were not made good by the pope's means, daily to importune the king, on his return, to grant them recompense "out of the tribute the pope hath of England;" and added, "except he deserve it better, why hee should have any at all, I see not."^q Through this bold language, and other im-

ⁿ "Angl. Sacr." pars i. p. 559. Rad. de Diceto, "Dec. Script." col. 478, says 1061. The "Saxon Chron." Gibson's edit. assigns the decease of Dudoc to the year 1060; and with this the Museum MS. "Tiberius B. iv." agrees. Godwin states that Giso was consecrated in 1059.

^o "De Gest. Pont." lib. iii. Scrip. post Bedam, p. 271.

^p Godwin's "Catalogue of the Bishops of England," p. 571.

^q Ibid. p. 572. Malmesbury's words are as follow—"Tostinus quippe gravibus verborum contumeliis Apostolicum aggressus in sententiam sibi placitam reduxit, parum metuendam à longinquis gentibusejus excommunicationem, quam propinqui latrunculi deriderent. In supplices enim furere,

portunities, he succeeded in obtaining the archiepiscopal pall for Aldred, on the condition, however, that the latter should relinquish his bishopric.^r

It is said by the Canon of Wells,^s that when Giso entered upon his see, he found here but ten canons, or, as in another manuscript, only five,^t who were reduced to beggary in consequence of the spoliation of Harold, Earl of Kent, by whom this Church had been deprived both of its ornaments and possessions. Godwin adds, but without referring to his authority, that the bishop "complaining unto the king of this outrageous havocke, found cold comfort at his hands; for whether it were for fear of Harold's power, or his wives displeasure, he caused no restitution to be made; onely the queene was content to give of her owne Marke and Modesly unto the Church." He further states that, after the death of King Edward, "Giso was faine to flye the land till such time as Harold the sacrilegious usurper being vanquished and slaine, William the Conqueror was a meane to restore, not onely him to his place and country, but his Church also, to all that the other had violently taken from it; except some small parcels that (I know not by what meanes) had been conveyed unto the monastery of Gloucester."^u The Canon of Wells, from whom Godwin has derived the latter part of this account, mentions nothing of the flight of Giso, but states that William, soon after his coronation, restored to him all the possessions which Harold had taken away, except what had been given to St. Peter's at Gloucester, and except Congresbury, Banwell, and Kilmington, and some others.^v Collinson, who has

in rebelles parum valere; aut sua sibi per ejus auctoritatem, reddenda quæ per ejus fraudulentiam constaret amissa: aut futurum ut hæc rex Anglorum audiens tributum sancti Petri meritò Nicolao subtraheret, se non defuturum rerum veritati exaggerendæ." Godwin "*De Præsul. Angliæ,*" ex "*De Gest. Pont.*" lib. iii. Scrip. post Bedam, p. 271.

^r It is not impossible but that the free and open remarks in which Earl Tosti indulged on this occasion, and which partook of the high spirit that distinguished the male branches of his family, was a leading cause of the decided support given by the Papal See to the projected invasion of England by William the Norman.

^s "*Angl. Sacr.*" pars i. p. 559.

^t *Ibid.* marginal note.

^u "*Catalogue of English Bishops,*" p. 361.

^v "*Angl. Sacr.*" pars i. p. 559.

blended the statements, both of Godwin and the Canon, with assumptions of his own, says that when Harold was banished by King Edward, all his estates in Somersetshire were given by that monarch to the Church of Wells; but, that on recovering the king's favour, Harold "in his turn, procured the banishment of Giso, and when he came to the crown, resumed most of those estates of which he had been deprived."^w

Notwithstanding the seeming particularity of these triplicated statements, they do not appear to have been founded upon any valid authority; and the annexation of Harold's estates to this see is equally as doubtful as Giso's banishment, and the Conqueror's restitution. Speaking of the origin of the account as inserted in the "*Anglia Sacra*," the editors of the new edition of the "*Monasticon*" remark that "there seems considerable reason to doubt its accuracy:" they observe, further, that at the time of the Domesday Survey, "the Church of Wells possessed but one manor which had belonged to Harold; and in proof that Harold confirmed to Giso all the privileges of the bishopric in their fullest tenure, we have the evidence of his own charter."^x

Bishop Giso was at the consecration of Archbishop Lanfranc, in August 1070, together with seven other

^w "*History of Somersetshire*," vol. iii. p. 378. In another part, this author says:—"When Harold came to the throne, he could not patiently observe his legal inheritance in the possession of others, nor allow the church the prerogative of retaining unfairly the revenues of the crown; he therefore, having first condemned the Bishop to perpetual exile, retook his estates into his own hands, and held them till his death at the battle of Hastings." *Ibid.* p. 392.

^x Dugdale's "*Monasticon*," vol. ii. p. 275; and Num. viii. p. 287. Edit. 1819. In this valuable work is given the transcript of a charter from the Cottonian MS. "*Tiberius*," E. viii. fol. 250, attributed to Edward the Confessor, and bearing date on the 20th of May, A.D. 1065; Ind. 3. In that instrument various places are mentioned as belonging to this church, the names of which do not occur in the list of its manors in the Domesday Book. Collinson, who has inserted a copy in his *Account of Wells*, introduces it thus:—"The ancient territories and predial possessions of this See appear in the subsequent charter of King Edward the Confessor to Bishop Giso ("*Hist. of Som.*" vol. iii. p. 393);—and he afterwards states, that most of the lands named in it had been taken from Earl Harold by King Edward, and given to that Bishop." The obvious inconsistency of these accounts requires no comment; but it may be remarked in illustration, that if the charter be authentic, its date, viz. 1065, precludes the possibility of the estates mentioned being Harold's property; as, at that very period, he was in full possession of Edward's favour, and the chief depository of his power.

bishops; and in 1075 he was present at the great council, or synod, assembled in London by that prelate.^y He procured the restitution of several manors of which this Church had been dispossessed after the conquest. In his time also, King William, in his eleventh year, restored Banwell to this See; and he afterwards granted the manor and church of Yatton to the bishop and his successors;^z but he bereaved the See of that part of Milverton which Queen Editha had bestowed.^a

This prelate augmented the number of the canons of Wells, and appointed a provost to look over them: he also erected for their accommodation, a cloister, dormitory, and a refectory. He died in the year 1088; and was buried on the north side of the altar.

When the Domesday-Survey was made, towards the close of Giso's pontificate, viz. in the years 1085 and 1086, the possessions of this See were found to be wholly in Somersetshire, and to have amounted to 280½ hides; the total rental of which appears to have been rather more than £315. The bishop held *Wells* itself, called *Welle* in the record, and was assessed there in King Edward's time for fifty hides; besides two others which had not been taxed, and were worth thirty shillings: of these, fourteen hides, worth £12, were tenanted by the Canons of his Church; twenty-two hides, worth £17 10s., by other persons; and the remainder, worth £30, was retained by the Bishop. Of arable lands, there were sixty carucates; of meadow, three hundred acres; of pasture, three leucæ (that is, miles) in length, and one in breadth; of wood, two leucæ in length, and two quarentenes (furlongs) in breadth; and of moor-land, three leucæ. To the Bishop's part appertained six servants, twenty villains, fourteen borderers, or cottagers, fifteen ploughs, and four mills;—

^y Johnson's "Ecclesiastical Laws," P. ii. anno 1075. Giso "was a great favourite of William the Conqueror as well as Edward the Confessor." Ibid. Note h. It is singular that Malmesbury does not notice Giso in his Account of the Bishops of this See; although he mentions his name in two or three other places.

^z "Angl. Sacr." pars i. p. 559.

^a Collinson's "Hist. of Somersetshire," vol. iii. p. 14.

to that of the Canons, eight servants, sixteen villains, twelve cottagers, eight ploughs, and two mills;—and to the other tenants, thirteen servants, twenty-two villains, twenty-one cottagers, twelve ploughs, and three mills.

Besides the above, the Bishop held twenty hides at Combe St. Nicholas, twenty at Kingsbury, eight at Chard, two at Leighland, fifteen at Wiveliscombe, fourteen at Wellington, ten, all but a virgate, at Bishop's Lydiard, thirty at Banwell, twenty at Evercreech, six at Westbury, ten at Winsham, thirty at Chew-Magna, twenty at Yatton,^b including a pasture called *Waimora*, which had belonged to King Edward the Confessor's manor of Congresbury, and eleven at Wedmore. The record states, also, that the manor of Milverton, which was then in the king's possession, was, in the Confessor's time, held by Bishop Giso, who was assessed for it at a virgate only. Aissa, afterwards called Ash-Priors, from having been granted to the Priory at Taunton, had been likewise held by Giso (as part of Bishop's Lydiard), who was assessed at three hides and a virgate; but at the period of the Survey it was held by Roger de Arundel "de rege injuste."

Soon after the accession of King William Rufus a great change was made in the state of this See by *John de Villula*, who had succeeded Giso in its episcopal government. This prelate had been originally a priest at Tours, in France, of which place he was likewise a native; but having practised at Bath as a Physician, he obtained affluence, and is conjectured by Wharton to have purchased the See of Wells, with the profits of his profession, from Rufus, who was accustomed to dispose of ecclesiastical preferments;^c but Malmesbury and other writers state that he was invested with this Bishopric in the time of the Conqueror. He destroyed

^b Yatton, called *Latrne* in the Domesday Book, is the only manor belonging to the See of Wells under which a Church is noticed in that record.

^c "Angl. Sacr." pars. i. p. 559, note r. "Johannes de Villulá, Turonensis Ecclesiæ Presbyter (sic enim in professione autogr. Lanfranco datâ appellatur) postquam maximos ex Medicinâ quæstus fecisset, Episcopatum Welsemsensem obtinuit, vereor ne nummis ex Medicinâ conflatis emerit," &c.

the cloister and other edifices which Giso had built for the canons at Wells (who were forced to seek dwellings in the town), and in their place constructed a *Palace* for himself and his successors.^d This, most probably, was in the very early part of his prelacy; as, either in 1091 or 1092^e he transferred the episcopal seat from Wells to *Bath*, which, with all its appurtenances and privileges, he had purchased of the king. It would appear that his success at Bath, in his medical profession, had given him a predilection for that place, for he had likewise procured a grant of Bath Abbey, from Rufus, previously to his removal of the See^f, for which removal he obtained the King's consent; Rudborne says "by bribery;" but Matthew Paris, more covertly, though with similar implication, by "*anointing his hand with white ointment.*"^g

Soon after the removal of the episcopal seat to Bath, Bishop Villula commenced the erection of a Cathedral in that city (on the site of the old church belonging to the abbey), which he completed from the foundations, and Malmesbury adds, "with a great and elaborate circuit of walls^h." The same writer states, that the Bishop at first treated the monks of Bath very harshly, on account of their excessive ignorance, but that he afterwards behaved with more kindness, and filled the

^d "Angl. Sacr. pars. i. p. 560.

^e Ralph de Diceto says in 1091; but Rudborne and Matthew Paris assign the removal to the year 1092.

^f The charter, by which St. Peter's Abbey at Bath was granted to Bishop Villula, expressly states that it was given to him, with all its appendages, in augmentation of the Bishopric of Somersetshire, and that he might fix his episcopal seat there. The following is an extract: "Quocirca ego Willelmus Willelmi regis filius, Dei dispositione monarches Brittanniæ, pro neæ meique patris remedio animæ, et regni prosperitate, et populi a Domino mihi collati salute, accessi Johanni episcopo Abbatiam sancti Petri Bathonæ, cum omnibus appendiciis, tam in villis quam in civitate et in consuetudinibus, illis videlicet quibus saisita erat ea die qua regnum suscepi. Dedit inquam ad Somersetensis episcopatus augmentationem eatenus præsertim ut inibi instituat præseleam sedem." Dugdale's "Monasticon," vol. ii. Num. ix. p. 266. This charter bears date, on the 6th of the kal. of Feb. A. D. 1090; In. 13: but some writers suppose it to have been only a confirmation or enlargement of a former grant, it appearing from the "Register of Wells," quoted by Wharton, that the gift, or rather purchase, of Bath Abbey was first made in 1088.

^g "Hist. Angl." à Watts.

^h "De Gest. Pont." lib. ii. Scrip. post Bedam; p. 254.

abbey with men eminent for literature and the discharge of their duties.ⁱ The Canon of Wells says that he transferred the revenues of the abbatial table to his own, and dismissing the appellation of Bishop of Wells, caused himself to be called the first *Bishop of Bath*.^j He died in 1123, having possessed the See nearly thirty-six years, and was interred in his new Cathedral. In the "Decem Scriptorum" (col. 247), he is said to have expired, suddenly, on the day after Christmas day, of a pain in the heart; but in the "Anglia Sacra" he is stated to have died very old, on the 29th of December, in the above year. He was a man of considerable munificence; and whatever may have been his conduct to the monks in the early part of his prelacy, he made them full amends long before his decease; for in a deed,^k granted in 1106, he not only restored their former lands, but gave them others which "he had acquired by his own travail, or bought with his own money:" he also, by the same instrument, appropriated the entire rental of the city of Bath to the completion of his church, and gave all his moveable property, of whatever description, to the monastery there. Leland, who has erroneously stated that it was from Henry the First that this prelate obtained permission to "settle his Se" at Bath, thus speaks of his tomb: "This *John* pullid down the old Church of S. Peter at Bath, and erectid a new, much fairer; and was buried in the midle of the Presbyteri thereof, whos Image I saw lying there an 9 Yere sins, at the which tyme al the Chirch that he made lay to wast, and was onrofid, and wedes grew about this John of Tours Sepulchre."^l

ⁱ "De Gest. Pont." lib. ii. Scrip. post Bedam; p. 254.

^j "Angle. Sacr." pars i. p. 560.

^k See the Deed (translated) at length, in "History and Antiquities of Bath Abbey Church" 4to p. 20, by J. Britton. Some other particulars of Bishop de Villula, which more immediately relate to that foundation, are given in the same work.

^l "Itinerary," vol. ii. p. 39: edit. 1744.

CHAP. II.

HISTORICAL NOTICES OF THE SEE AND BISHOPS OF BATH AND WELLS, FROM THE REIGN OF HENRY THE FIRST TILL THE PERIOD OF THE REFORMATION.

ABOUT the time of Easter, 1123-4, Henry the First bestowed the See of Bath on *Godfrey*, a Belgian, who was chaplain to the Queen (Adeliza), but not chancellor to the king, as Bishop Godwin erroneously affirms :^a he was consecrated on the 26th of August following, in the Cathedral of St. Paul, at London. This prelate endeavoured to recover the lands and provostship of the Canons of Wells, which had been usurped by John the Archdeacon, in the time of Bishop de Villula; but the Archdeacon being aided by King Henry, and Roger, Bishop of Sarum, he was unsuccessful.^b He died on the 16th of August, 1135, and was buried in his Cathedral at Bath. In his time the valuable manor of Dogmersfield, in Hampshire, which afterwards became a summer residence of the Bishops of Bath and Wells, was granted to this See by the king.

Robert, a native of Normandy, and a monk of Lewes, whom Henry, Bishop of Winchester, had appointed to the temporary government of St. Swithin's, in that city, and afterwards deputed to regulate the affairs of Glastonbury Abbey, was next promoted to this See by the influence of the same prelate. During the contentions between the Empress Maud and King Stephen, this Bishop was unexpectedly seized, at Bath, by a party of the townsmen of Bristol, and imprisoned in Bristol Castle till the King had given his reluctant

^a Vide "*Anglia Sacra*," pars i. p. 568.

^b *Ibid.*

assent to his being exchanged for Geoffery Talbot, one of the Empress's most zealous partisans, whom the Bishop had previously arrested as a spy, and then held in durance.

After the removal of the episcopal seat from Wells to Bath, great dissensions arose between the canons of the former city and the monks of the latter, respecting this change of residence and the right of election; the canons affirming that the translation of the See by John de Villula "could not be held good, because it was made against their consent, with disregard of right, and without any necessity or legitimate cause."^c Eventually, the dispute was referred to Bishop Robert, who, in a composition or decree (made ante anno 1139) still extant "in Registro *Drokensford*," enjoined "that the Bishops should neither derive their title from *Wells*, as in old, nor from *Bath*, as in modern times, but that in future they should take their names from both churches, and be called Bishops of BATH and WELLS; that the monks of Bath and the canons of Wells should, on a vacancy of the See, appoint an equal number of delegates, by whose united votes the Bishop should be chosen, (the Dean of Wells being the returning officer); that the Bishop elect should be enthroned in both churches, but first at Bath; that both their communities should form the Bishop's Chapter, and that all grants, &c. should be confirmed under their respective seals."

Some time afterwards this prelate, with the consent and by the aid of King Stephen,^d made new regulations for the government of Wells Church, which he placed under the supremacy of a Dean, &c. instead of the *Præpositus*, or Provost, instituted by Giso: of this transaction Bishop Godwin gives the following account, from the "*Anglia Sacra*," and other authorities.

"Whereas a kinsman [John, the Archdeacon] of John de Villula being appointed by him Provost, by vertue of that office had withdrawn and converted vnto his owne vse, in a manner, all the reuenues of old belonging

^c "*Anglia Sacra*," pars i. pp. 555, 556.

^d *Ibid.* p. 561.

to the Canons; with great labour and cost, at last, he [Bishop Robert] procured that all that had appertained vnto them to bee restored againe. And to take away all occasion of the like vsurpation, he thought good to divide the lands of the Church into two parts; whereof the one he assigned vnto the Chapter in common, and out of the rest he allotted to every Canon a portion, by the name of a Prebend. He also it was that first constituted a Deane to be the President of the Chapter, and a Subdeane to supply his place in absence; a Chaunter to govern the quier, and Subchaunter under him; a Chancellour to instruct the younger sort of Canons; and lastly, a Treasurer, to looke to the ornaments of the Church.”^e

During Robert's episcopacy, the city of Bath was partly destroyed by fire (July the 29th, 1137), together, according to Stow's "Chronicle," with St. Peter's Church there; but the Canon of Wells, without adverting to the latter circumstance, merely states that Bishop Robert completed the building of Bath Church, which John of Tours had begun.^f From the same authority we learn that he substantially repaired the Church at Wells, the ruins of which, in many places, threatened destruction;^g and that he dedicated it anew, in the presence of the Bishops of Sarum, Worcester, and Hereford. He likewise founded the two prebends of Jatton, or Yatton, and Huish-Episcopi. Having filled the see about thirty years, he died either in the year 1165 or 1166, and was buried with his immediate predecessors in the Cathedral at Bath.

After his decease, Henry the Second, retained possession of this See for more than eight years, when he bestowed it on *Reginald Fitz-Joceline*, Archdeacon of Salisbury; who, though an Englishman by birth, was

^e "Catalogue of the Bishops of England," p. 363. Godwin adds, "The Subchauntership, together with the Provostship, an. 1547, were taken away and suppressed by act of Parliament to patch up a [new] Deanry; the lands and reuenues of the Deanry being deuoured by sacrilegious cormorants."

^f "Anglia Sacra," pars i. p. 561.

^g "Multas ruinas ejusdem Ecclesiæ destructionem ejus in locis pluribus comminantes egregiè reparavit."—Ibid.

from education and surname regarded as a Lombard.^h His father was Bishop of Sarum, and is said to have had this son before he was ordained. Reginald, at first, supported the claims of the arrogant Thomas à Becket, but afterwards changing to the King's side, he was sent ambassador to the Pope, in 1171, to remove the suspicion of Henry being concerned in Becket's assassination. He was consecrated to this See on his return from Rome, by Richard Archbishop of Canterbury, in the church of St. John, in the vallies of Moriana (Savoy), on the 23d of June, 1174, and was enthroned on the 24th of November following.ⁱ This prelate, who is described as a man of ability, and of many excellent qualities, was much addicted to hunting and hawking, and he obtained from Richard Cœur de Lion the confirmation of an alleged right of the Bishops of this See to keep dogs for sporting throughout all Somersetshire.^j From the same King, previously to his departure for the Holy Land, he received the manors of North Curry, Wrantage, and West Hatch, which he gave to the Chapter of Wells, for their common emoluments. He also founded various new Prebends in the same church; and having constituted the town of Wells a free borough, he exonerated the burgesses from all servile offices. In consequence of some services rendered to the monks of Canterbury, they were induced to elect him as their Archbishop, on the 27th of November, 1191; and he being present, they seated him by violence in the archiepiscopal throne; at first he strenuously, and with tears, refused to accept the proffered dignity; but on the following day, being asked whether he assented to the election, he answered "that

^h "Anglia Sacra," pars i. p. 561. ⁱ Ibid, pars i. pp. 561, 562, and note u.

^j "Ricardus," &c.—Sciatis nos concessisse et præsentī carta nostra confirmasse Rain. Dei gratia Bathon. Episcopo et ejus successoribus in perpetuum Canes suos ad Fugandum per totam Somerset, sicut ipse vel aliquis antecessorum suorum eos unquam liberius habuit, videlicet ad capiendum bestias præter cervum et cervam, et damum et damam. Volumus etiam et concedimus quod ipse, et omnes successores sui, de omnibus bestiis in parcis suis fugatis si exierint, libere et quiete suam habeant percursum. Et ideo prohibemus ne quis prædictum Episcopum vel successores suos super hæc in aliquo disturbet, super decem libras forisfacturæ. Hiis testibus," &c. Vide Harl. MSS. No. 83. C. 10.

so far was he from ambitious desire of that place, that it was a great griefe vnto him to bee chosen, and that he would bee very glad they would take some other in his roome: howbeit (quoth hee) if they will needs stand to their election, though with greefe and hearts sorrow, I must and will accept of the same."^k The Pope's assent being afterwards obtained, Reginald prepared to take possession of his new See, but he was suddenly taken ill at his residence at Dogmersfield, and, putting on a monk's cowl, he died there on the 26th of December following. Three days after he was interred near the high altar in Bath Cathedral.^l

Savaric, the son of Goldwine, archdeacon of Northampton, and treasurer of Sarum, being elected to succeed Reginald by the monks of Bath, though without the consent or knowledge of the canons of Wells, he was ordained Priest on the 19th of September, 1192; and, as Wharton supposes, consecrated Bishop on the following day.^m He was related to Henry, the Sixth Emperor of Germany, who, to oblige his kinsman, made it one of the conditions of the release of King Richard (who had been basely imprisoned by Leopold, Duke of Austria, on his way from the Holy Land), that the wealthy abbey of Glastonbury should be annexed to the Diocese of Bath and Wells for its aggrandizement and advantage.ⁿ Henry de Solis, who was of the blood royal, and abbot of Glastonbury, was induced to consent to this arrangement on being promoted to the bishopric of Worcester; but the monks strenuously opposed it, though in vain. Stow affirms, on the authority of a record of Henry the Third's time, that Savaric procured the imprisonment of Richard, in order to annex Glastonbury to his See;^o and the King is reported to have declared that the annexation of the abbey was extorted

^k Godwin's "Catalogue of the English Bishops," p. 100.

^l Hovedon says he was buried at *Bæ*,—for so Bath is denominated (vide *Scriptores post Bedam*, p. 405; B.) probably from some presumed analogy to the Roman *Baiæ*.

^m "Anglia Sacra," pars i. p. 562.

ⁿ Vide Dugdale's "Monasticon," edit 1819, vol. i. p. 5, from Johan. Glast.

^o See Stow's "Chronicle," p. 61.

from him by force and terror: ^p but whatever the truth may be, in those respects, it appears that Richard employed the opportunity to induce this Bishop to surrender to him the city of Bath, which was then valued at £100 per ann. in exchange for Glastonbury. Having obtained his desire, Savaric, according to the Canon of Wells, transferred his episcopal seat to Glastonbury, and caused himself to be styled Bishop of that place; ^q but others state that he assumed the title of Bishop of *Bath and Glastonbury*.^r He gave the archdeaconry of Bath to the prior and convent there, and having founded the Prebends of Ilminster and Long Sutton in the church of Wells, he died at Scienes, on the 8th of August, 1205, and was interred at Bath. The following monkish rhymes, expressive of the rambling inquietude of his disposition, are said to have formed his epitaph: ^s—

Hospes erat mundo,—per mundum semper eundo,
Sic suprema dies—fit sibi prima quies.

Immediately after the decease of Savaric, the prior and convent of Glastonbury petitioned the Pope to restore them to their former state of independency of episcopal rule; but he refused their petition, on the ground that the See of Bath had, during its vacancy, no legal defenders of its rights.

In 1206, *Joceline de Welles*, called *Joceline Troteman* in the “*Annales de Margan*,” who had been made a Justice of the Common Pleas in 1204, was elected Bishop by the joint suffrages of the chapters of Bath and Wells, and he was consecrated in St. Mary’s Chapel, at Reading, on the 28th of May, in the same year. During his episcopacy the monks of Glastonbury, after great exertions and a strong opposition of twelve years’ continuance on the part of Joceline, obtained, by appeal to the court of Rome, and the influence of the King, a dissolution of their enforced union with this See; yet not till they had agreed to

^p “*Anglia Sacra*.” pars i. p. 578.

^q “*Et se fecit Glastoniensem Episcopum publicè appellari.*” Ibid, p. 563.

^r Ibid, pars i. p. 562, note x.

^s Camden’s “*Remains*,” p. 373.

surrender to the Bishop the valuable manors of Winescombe, Pucklechurch, Blackford, and Cranmore, together with the advowsons of several churches. This arrangement was confirmed by a bull of Pope Honorius the Third, dated at Rome, on the 16th of the kalends of June, 1218;[†] and Joceline afterwards resumed the title of Bishop of *Bath and Wells*, which has ever since been used by the successive Prelates of this See.

Bishop Joceline having incurred the high displeasure of King John, by interdicting the nation, pursuant to the Pope's command, in 1208, was soon after forced into exile, and the King, during his absence, retained the temporalities of the Bishopric; the net profits of which, in the fourteenth of his reign, anno 1212, when they were accounted for by his escheator, Thomas Peverel, amounted to £214. 14s. 6d.^u

On the Bishop's return, after an exile of five years, he applied himself particularly to the improvement of the church of Wells. He obtained from Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, the valuable manors of Congresbury, Chedder, and Axbridge (to be held of the king for ever in fee farm), and annexed them to his See: in conjunction with that prelate he likewise founded the hospital of St. John, at Wells. He also established many new Prebends in this Cathedral; augmented the stipends of the chanters (whom he first styled Vicars-choral), and more equally distributed the revenues of the establishment among its various dignitaries and officers. But his principal work was the repair, or rather restoration of the Cathedral itself; which, according to the Canon of Wells, being "deformed with ruins, and almost level with the ground,"^v he rebuilt, and dedicated anew on

[†] See Dugdale's "Monasticon," vol. ii. p. 269; No. 19.

^u Vide "Comp. Epis. Baton." de anno integro. Mag. Rot. 14. John, Rot. i. 6. By that instrument it appears that Bishop Joceline's establishment comprised a train of huntsmen, a noble pack of harriers, and thirteen other dogs of different descriptions; besides other articles of luxury, &c. According to Matthew Paris, Joceline dictated the oath taken by Henry the Third at his coronation at Gloucester; and, with Peter, Bishop of Winchester, crowned him.

^v "Jocelinus," &c.—"ipsamque Wellensem Ecclesiam vetustatis ruinis enormiter deformatam prostravit, et à pavimentis erexit dedicavitque:"—*'Anglia Sacra,'* pars i. p. 564.

the 23d of October, 1239. He likewise erected a chapel in the bishop's palace at Wells, and another at Wokey, as well as other edifices. Having possessed his See nearly thirty-seven years, he died on the 19th of November, 1242, and was buried in the middle of the choir of Wells Cathedral. "No one," says the Canon of Wells, "had ever been like this man, and we have never seen a successor equal to him."^w It appears that the church of Bath became subordinate to Wells in episcopal authority and influence, either in the time of this prelate or in that of his successor; and the Bishops henceforth seem to have fixed their residence, principally, at Wells.

Roger, precentor of Sarum, was next elected to the See by the monks of Bath, but this being done without the approbation of the canons of Wells, an appeal was made to the court of Rome; previously however to any decision the Bishop elect obtained the consent of the Pope to his consecration, on the plea that the church might otherwise suffer from remaining vacant. He was consecrated at Reading, on the 11th of September, 1244; and after a long suit the Pope determined that the right of choice was jointly in the two Chapters. The monks of Bath promising a stricter observance of the compact in future, Roger was permitted to retain his seat without more opposition. Having augmented the income both of the archdeacons and the canons of Wells, by certain appropriations during vacancies, he died on the 21st of December, 1247: or as others write, in January, 1248.^x According to the Annals of Worcester, the Pope appointed him Bishop of this See on account of the dissensions between the two chapters of Bath and Wells.^y He was the last Bishop interred at Bath prior to the Reformation.

William Button,^z or *Bitton* (the first of that name), archdeacon of Wells, was next advanced to this See, by the mutual concurrence of the monks and canons,

^w "Anglia Sacra," pars i. p. 561.

^x Ibid. p. 565.

^y Ibid. p. 492.

^z Adam de Domerham writes the name *William de Bucton*.—"Anglia Sacra," pars i. p. 581.

and he was consecrated at Rome on the 14th of July, 1248. In 1253, he was sent by Henry the Third into Spain, to negotiate a marriage between Eleanor, daughter of King Ferdinand, and Prince Edward: he was also much employed by the King in other affairs. This prelate was engaged in a long dispute with his canons in regard to the allotments from vacancies made to them by his predecessors, Joceline and Roger; but the parties being reconciled by the mediation of the metropolitan, the Bishop relinquished his claims. In the 41st of Henry the Third he procured from the King a charter of free warren for his manor of Wells. He died on the 3d of April, 1264, and was buried in this Cathedral, in the *new chapel* of the Virgin Mary.^a

Walter Giffard, his successor, who was a canon of Wells and chaplain to the Pope, was elected on the 22d of May, 1264, and was consecrated by the Bishop of Paris, in the absence of Archbishop Boniface. In the same year (viz. 49th of Henry III.) he was Chancellor of England; and on the 15th of October, 1265, he was advanced to the archiepiscopal see of York,^b which he retained till his decease on the 25th of April, 1279.^c

William Button, or *Bitton*, the second Bishop of that name (who was nephew to the former) was elected on the 10th of February, 1267, and had his temporalities restored on the fourth of the following month. He was so much esteemed for his superior sanctity, that, as we are informed by Matthew Paris, he was chosen by Robert Kilwardby to consecrate him Archbishop of

^a "Anglia Sacra," pars i. p. 566. This Bishop was particularly attentive to the interests of his family and kinsfolk, whom he appears to have advanced to the principal offices of his church. William Button, his brother's son (afterwards Bishop) was Archdeacon of Wells; Richard Button, precentor; Nicholas Button (the bishop's brother) treasurer; John Button (another brother) provost of Coomb and parson of Ashbury; and he was succeeded by a Thomas Button. There was also a Thomas Button, but whether the same or not is uncertain, who succeeded the above William in the archdeaconry; and afterwards became Bishop of Exeter.

^b On this occasion the Bishop wrote, as follows, to the prior and convent of Bath:—"We give you notice that, from the day of the blessed apostle Thomas, we have ceased, and have taken upon us the care of the church of York."—Vide Cartul. Bathon. in Bibl. Hospit. Linc." p. 96.

^c He was buried in York Cathedral.

Canterbury, in preference to all others.^d He established some good statutes for the government of his diocese, and gave the manor of Bicknoller to the church of Wells. On his decease, December the 4th, 1274, he was buried in the southern part of Wells Cathedral; "*ubi*," says the Canon of Wells, "*ad præsens multis fulget miraculis*."^e His tomb has been since removed into the Lady Chapel; but it continued to be visited, even till after the Reformation, by many superstitious devotees, and particularly by those who were troubled with the toothache.

On the 23d of February, 1275, *Robert Burnell*, of the baronial family of that name, archdeacon of York, and a canon of Wells, was elected to the vacant See; and was consecrated at Merton, by the Archbishop of Canterbury, on the 7th of April following. He was a man of eminent abilities; and being first treasurer and afterwards chancellor of England, was much employed by Edward the First, in Welsh affairs. His public offices enabled him both to enrich his family and to benefit the Church of Wells by various privileges, and confirmatory charters of former grants.^f He also erected, on the west side of the episcopal palace, a great Hall, which was demolished in the reign of Edward the Sixth by Sir John Gates; who as "a just reward for his sacrilege," says Bishop Godwin, "soone after lost his head."^g Dying at Berwick upon Tweed, on the 25th of October, 1292, he was buried in the nave of Wells Cathedral about a month afterwards. Wharton says that he surrendered to the King the patronage of Glastonbury Abbey, receiving in return additional privileges for the city of Bath.

William de Marchia, or *De la March*, who possessed the treasurership of England from the year 1290, to 1295, and was held in high favour by Edward the First, was next elected to this See, on the 30th of January, 1293; and consecrated on the 17th of May.

^d Vide Matt. Paris à Watts, p. 1008.

^e "*Anglia Sacra*," pars i. p. 566.

^f "*Anglia Sacra*," pars i. p. 567.

^g "*Catalogue of English Bishops*," p. 369.

He died on the 11th of June, 1302, and was interred here, in the south transept, between the door of the cloisters and the altar of St. Martin. At his tomb, says the Canon of Wells, many miracles were performed.^h Godwin states that the *Chapter house*, a "stately and sumptuous worke," was built in the time of this prelate, "by the contribution of well disposed people."

Walter Haselshawe, or *Hestelshagh*, Dean of Wells, was advanced to this See on the 7th of August, 1302, and consecrated on the following 4th of November.ⁱ He made various useful statutes for this Cathedral; and dying on the 11th of December, 1308, was buried in the nave, near the altar for the celebration of matins, or morning service.^j

John Drokensford, the next bishop, was elected on the 5th of February, 1309, at which time he was keeper of the King's wardrobe and privy seal, and under-treasurer of the exchequer: he was consecrated on the 9th of November following, at Canterbury. The Canon of Wells states that he improved his Bishopric with many splendid buildings, and renewed and amplified the privileges of his Church;^k but Bishop Godwin, on the contrary, says that if he bestowed somewhat in

^h "Anglia Sacra," pars i. p. 567. Bishop Godwin, in his "Catalogue of English Bishops," p. 369, has this passage:—"I have seene, amongst the records of our Church of Welles, the copies of divers letters vnto the Pope and Cardinals from the King, from divers of the nobility and the cleargy of that Church, commending this man so far foorth for his holines, testified (as they write) by many miracles; as they intreated very earnestly for his Canonisation. I marvell much at it; for Matthew of Westminster and Polidor Virgil complain grievously of him, as the author of a hainous sacrilege, in causing the King to spoile all the Churches and Monasteries of England, of such plate and mony as lay hoorded up in them, for the paiement of his souldiers. It was Edward the First, a prince that wanted neither wit to deuise, nor courage to execute such an exploit, and to lay the fault vpon another at last. Yet likely enough it is, that such a fault stamped vpon him (how vndersevedly soever) might bar him out of the Pope's Calender, who otherwise was not wont to be over dainty in affoording that kind of honour where fees might be readily paid for it."—Vide also MS. Harl. No. 6968, pp. 112 and 113, among the excerpts from the Registers of Wells.

ⁱ Bishop Haselshawe was enthroned at Wells on Christmas Day, 1302; but not at Bath till the Epiphany following: which proves that the former Church had obtained the precedency. Vide Wharton's note, "Anglia Sacra," pars i. p. 567, note f.

^j "Anglia Sacra," pars i. p. 567.

^k Ibid, p. 568.

increasing the buildings and liberties of his See, he lavished much more upon his kindred; and that he had much contention with his chapter.¹ In his time, on the 2d of the kalends of February, 1325, an indulgence of forty days was granted to the contributors to the *new works of this Church*. He died at Dogmersfield, on the 13th of May, 1329, and was buried in St. Catharine's Chapel in this Cathedral.

Ralph de Salopia, or *Shrewsbury*, the succeeding Bishop, who was keeper of the King's wardrobe, and chancellor of the University of Oxford, was elected by the two chapters of Bath and Wells on the 2d of June, 1329: he was consecrated on the 3d of December following, by the Archbishop of Canterbury; but this having been done prior to obtaining the Pope's approval, it cost him, as stated by Walsingham, "a huge sum of money" before he could procure a full confirmation from the court of Rome. He was a munificent benefactor to his Church and Diocese. "By great labour, and not a little expense, he procured from the king an exemption from the forest laws for the manors of Chedder and Axbridge. He destroyed by hunting, with the King's consent, all the wild beasts of Mendip forest; he surrounded the episcopal palace at Wells with a strong stone wall and a moat; he built [or rather founded] the Vicar's close at Wells, and vested it for ever in the Vicars-choral and their successors, to whom also he granted the manor of Welsleigh, and a yearly rent of twenty nobles out of the vicarage of Chew; he erected a house for the choristers and their master on the west side of the cloister; he rebuilt the church of Winscombe from the foundations; and he constructed the court-house at Claverton, together with a great chamber at Evercreech, and many other edifices upon the episcopal estates. He also procured, 'with great cost,' the disafforestation of the forest of Mendip, and gave many rich ecclesiastical vest-

¹ Godwin, "De Præsulibus Angliæ," p. 375; edit. 1743.

ments to his churches of Bath and Wells."^m He died at Wiveliscombe, on the 14th of August, 1363; and was buried before the high altar in the presbytery at Wells: but his tomb has been removed to the north side of the choir. The Harleian MS. (No 6968) states that this prelate, in 1361, was excused from attending Parliament on account of his great age.

After the decease of Bishop Ralph, the monks of Bath elected *Walter de Monyngton*, abbot of Glastonbury, to this See; but as the chapter of Wells had not been consulted, his election was made void; and *John Barnet*, treasurer of England, was translated hither, from the See of Worcester, by a bull of Pope Urban the Fifth, on the 24th of November, 1363: his spiritualities were restored on the 7th of April in the following year. On the 15th of December, 1366, by another bull of the same Pope, he was removed to Ely; where he was buried, after his decease, at Bishop's Hatfield, on the 7th of June, 1373.

John de Harewell, LL. B. chancellor of Gascoigne and chaplain to Edward the Black Prince, was next raised to this See by papal authority; and he was consecrated at Bordeaux, by the archbishop, there, on the 7th of March, 1366. He contributed two-thirds of the expense of erecting the south-west tower of the Church,ⁿ the Chapter bearing the rest of the charge; gave the two great bells in the said tower, and paid one hundred marks towards the glazing of the west window. He likewise furnished the Church with a missal of twenty pounds value, and divers rich vestments. His will, dated June the 29th, 1386, was proved on the 20th of

^m Vide "*Anglia Sacra*," pars. i. pp. 568-9; and Godwin "*De Præsulibus Angliæ*," p. 377. Godwin says that, of the many things he gave to this Church, he believes that nothing remains but a great chest, bound with iron, in which the chapter seal is kept.

ⁿ "*Anglia Sacra*," pars. i. p. 570. Godwin says, "the third penny," *partem tertium*.—Speaking of the bells given by Harewell, the same writer states that the largest, which was four times re-cast since he was of this Church, "now at last serveth for the greatest of a ring, the goodliest for that number (being but five) (I thinke) in England."—"De Præsulibus," &c. p. 377; and "*Catalogue of English Bishops*," p. 372.

August, following. He was buried before the altar of St. Calixtus in this Cathedral.

After the death of Harewell, a license to elect was issued, bearing date July the 16th, 1386, (10th of Rich. II.), and *Richard Medeford*, canon and prebendary of Wells being chosen, the King restored his temporalities;^o but in the meantime the Pope, Urban the Sixth, having by his bull, dated August the 18th, in the above year, translated *Walter Skirlawe*, LL. D. from Lichfield to this See, Medeford was obliged to resign his new honours. Within two years after, viz. April the 3d, 1388, Bishop Skirlawe was translated to Durham, where he died; and was buried in the beginning of 1406. His executors, under the provisions of his will, presented vestments to this Church to the value of £150 for the celebration of his obit.^p

On the same day that Pope Urban removed Skirlawe to Durham, by another bull he translated *Ralph Erghum*, or *Argum*, LL. D. Bishop of Salisbury, to this See; and his temporalities were restored on the 13th of September following, anno 1388. In the following year, as appears from the Patent Rolls of Richard II. he obtained a grant of all the lead mines within his diocese, which included the rich veins of the Mendip hills. Among his benefactions to the dean and chapter of Wells was a missal value twenty-two pounds: gold and silver plate to the value of eighty-two pounds; and a messuage in Wells called the *George*. He also founded a chantry in this Church for the souls of his parents and sister; and by his will directed his executors to build in the way, or road, then called *La Mounterye*, but now College Lane, in Wells, a house, or college, for fourteen priests. He died on the 10th April, 1400; and was buried near St. Edmund's Chapel, in the nave of this Church.

Collinson states, that "This Bishop Erghum fortified the episcopal palace, surrounding it with a deep moat

^o Godwin, "De Præsulibus," &c. 37; note i.

^p "Anglia Sacra," pars i. p. 570.

and an embattled wall, flanked by semicircular towers, as it stands to this day.”^a He quotes, for his authority, the MS. “*Lib. Rub. Bathon.*” then in the possession of Viscount Weymouth, remarking, that Bishop Godwin, in his Commentary *de Præsulibus*, ascribes it, erroneously, to Ralph de Salopia. Whatever the truth may be, in respect to the real builder of the palace wall, Godwin is fully supported by the Canon of Wells in ascribing it to the latter prelate, as may be seen in the preceding account of Bishop Ralph.^r

Richard Clifford, archdeacon of Canterbury, and keeper of the privy seal, was, after Erghum’s death, advanced to this See by Pope Boniface the Ninth; but Henry the Fourth, wishing to bestow the Diocese on a more favoured adherent, refused his assent, and Clifford renounced his claims; for which prudential act he was made Bishop of Worcester in the following year.

Henry Bowet, LL. D. Canon of Wells, and archdeacon of Lincoln, was then promoted to this Bishopric, in reward for his fidelity to the King, when Earl of Hereford; for which, in 1398, he was sentenced to perpetual banishment, after having been condemned to die, by Richard the Second. He returned to England with Henry, when he landed at Ravenspur, in October, 1399. His temporalities, as Bishop of Bath and Wells, were restored on the 21st of September, 1401; and on the 20th of November following, he was consecrated in St. Paul’s Cathedral, in the presence of the King himself, and most of the Lancastrian nobility. In 1402, he was made treasurer of England; and in the middle of the year 1406, he conducted Henry’s daughter, Philippa, into Denmark, to be married to the Danish king. On

^a “History of Somersetshire,” vol. iii. p. 383.

^r The *Ruber Codex Bathoniæ*, during some part of the seventeenth century, was in the possession of Mr. John Packer, an alderman of Bath; and afterwards in that of Dr. Thos. Guidott, who, in 1703, gave it to Thomas, Viscount Weymouth; from whom it has descended to the present Marquis of Bath. It is fairly written on vellum, and contains sixty-nine leaves; the covers being of thick wood, coated with leather: in many instances the initial letters are elaborately ornamented. The contents are extremely various, viz. historical, legendary, medicinal, juridical, statistical, &c. It was written previously to the year 1428, with the exception of a few sentences of more recent insertion.

the 7th of October, 1407, he was preferred by Gregory the Twelfth, with the King's consent, to the archiepiscopal See of York. He died at Cawood on the 20th of October, 1423; and was interred in York minster.*

On the same day that Bowet was translated to York, *Nicholas Bubwith*, bishop of Sarum and treasurer of England, was advanced by the Pope to this See, viz. on October the 7th, 1407; and his temporalities were restored on the 1st of April in the following year. He was a circumspect and provident man, and, it may be presumed, of much talent, as he was one of the thirty ecclesiastics who were associated with the cardinals in the election of Pope Martin the Fifth. He contributed considerably towards the erection of the north-west tower of this Church, built the library over the eastern cloisters, and constructed a small chantry and monumental chapel within the Cathedral; wherein, after his decease, on the 27th of October, 1424, he was buried, having appointed three priests to celebrate a daily mass there for the good of his soul. He also founded an almshouse near the north side of St. Cuthbert's church, in Wells; and erected a small chapel in the priory church at Bath.†

The succeeding Bishop was the erudite *John Stafford*, LL. D. dean of Wells, the ninth son of Humphrey, Earl of Stafford, and afterwards Duke of Buckingham. He was greatly esteemed by Henry the Fifth, who made him keeper of the privy seal and one of his council. In December, 1422, he was appointed treasurer of England; and in December, 1424, he was elected Bishop of this See: he was consecrated on the 27th of May, in the church of the Friars-Preachers, at London. In February, 1431-32, he was made chancellor of England, which high office he enjoyed for eighteen years, and then voluntarily resigned it from approaching infirmities.

* "Anglia Sacra," pars i. p. 571. Ex Registris *Arundell et Bowit*. See "History," &c. of York Cathedral, for a view and an account of Bowet's tomb.

† Vide Harleian MS. No. 6968, p. 38, 44; and Godwin "De Præsulibus," p. 379.

Previously, however, he had been translated from this See to Canterbury, by the "absolute authority," as Godwin states, of Pope Eugenius the Fourth; whose bull, bearing date on the 13th of May, 1443, was admitted by the King on the 6th of the following August.^u He died at Maidstone, on the 6th of July, 1452, and was interred at Canterbury.

Thomas of Beckington, or *Bekyngton*, LL. D. a man eminently learned himself, and a liberal patron of erudition in others, was next advanced to this See by the favour of Henry the Sixth; to whom he had been tutor, and who held him in great estimation. He took his surname (as was common with the clergy of that period) from Beckington, the place of his birth, a village near Frome, in Somersetshire. When a mere boy he was sent to Winchester to be instructed in grammar; and whilst there was noticed for his abilities and the comeliness of his person by the celebrated William of Wickham, who placed him in the college which he, Wickham, had founded in that city. Having highly distinguished himself in rhetoric and logic, he was removed to Wickham's new College at Oxford; of which he became a fellow in 1408; and, having taken the degree of doctor of laws, he was, eventually, advanced, in 1442, to the chancellorship of that University.^v

Beckington obtained such high repute for his learning that he was employed at court to superintend the education of the young King, Henry the Sixth, by whose favour he obtained numerous preferments. Becoming dean of the arches, in 1430, he composed an elaborate treatise in confutation of the Salique Law of France, and proving the right of the English sovereign to that crown;^w which was so well received by the govern-

^u "Anglia Sacra," pars i. p. 572. See, also, the "History," &c. of Canterbury Cathedral.

^v Vide "Anglia Sacra," pars i. p. 573; and pars. ii. p. 358. In the List of Chancellors of Oxford, given by Le Neve ("Fasti Ecclesiæ Anglicanæ") he occurs by the name of Thomas Gascoigne.

^w Vide MS. Cotton. Tib. B. xii. "Opus collectum et compilatum per Ven. Patrem Thomam Bathon. et Wellens. episcopum et literis, allegationibus, conclusionibus, conventionibus. et tractatibus, nonnullisque aliis negotiis et materiis concernentibus jus et titulum regis Angliæ ad regnum

ment, that it greatly contributed to his subsequent promotion. He was appointed chancellor to Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester; archdeacon of Buckingham; canon of York, in 1435; and in 1439, canon of Wells: he was also made principal secretary of state, and keeper of the privy seal. In 1442, he was chosen one of the ambassadors who were sent to negotiate the marriage of Henry with Margaret, the daughter of René, titular King of Sicily, Naples, and Jerusalem;—and after the translation of Bishop Stafford to Canterbury, he was nominated to this See; to which he was consecrated on the 13th of October, 1443, in the old collegiate church at Eton, near Windsor.

Many munificent acts were performed by this prelate both at Wells and other places with which he had been connected. He gave two hundred pounds towards the building of Lincoln College, at Oxford; * and “as himself professeth in his wil,” expended six thousand marks “upon the repaying and beautifying” of the Episcopal houses of his own diocese; † on most of which he caused his Rebus, or device, to be sculptured, viz. a *Beacon* upon a large cask, or *Tun*. He also erected the western walk of the cloisters of Wells Cathedral; and built a monumental and chantry chapel for himself on the south side of the choir, in which he lies buried; his decease occurring on the 14th of January, 1464—65. By his will, bearing date on the 3d of November in the preceding year, he bequeathed to this Church twenty

et coronam Franciæ; cum aliis multis quæ ea occasione secuta sint.” Folio. Another of his Manuscripts, formerly in the same library, was destroyed by the fire at Ashburnham House, in 1731. In the Archbishop of Conterbury’s palace, is a Collection of his Letters on State Affairs. Vide Cod. MSS. Lambeth. No. 211. And, in the same library, Cod. MS. Wharton. No. 585, p. 311, is an expostulatory Letter from this prelate to the Duke of Somerset. See also “*Anglia Sacra*,” pars i. p. 573.

* With this benefaction the rector’s lodgings, on the south side of the great quadrangle, were raised; and Thomas of Rotherham, Bishop of Lincoln, the second founder of Lincoln College, from motives of gratitude, instituted and endowed a fellowship there for persons born in the Diocese of Wells, investing it with all collegiate privileges, except eligibility to the rectorship and sub-rectorship. It is at present held by the Rev. F. Scurray, a native of Beckington, and author of a descriptive poem on “*Bidcombe Hill*,” &c. a distinguished eminence in Wiltshire.

† Godwin’s “*Catalogue*,” &c. p. 375.

pounds for repairs ; four very costly vessels ; four hundred pounds to purchase copes ; a vessel of silver, weighing ten pounds, for holy water ; a silver cross, "parcel gilt," of similar weight ; a chair (of stone) for the bishop's use in the church, which yet remains ; cushions, and other ornaments. He likewise gave other legacies to the church at Bath ; to New College, Oxford ; Winchester College ; St. Katharine's Hospital, at London ; and various other places ; and to his successor in the bishopric he left one hundred pounds, on condition that he should accept it in lieu of all dilapidations ; but otherwise directing that his executors should expend it in law. All his unappropriated property he left to be employed in "good uses," at the discretion of his executors, who bestowed it chiefly in completing the Vicar's close, which had been commenced by Ralph de Salopia.

Among Beckington's other benefactions to Wells was the building of a row of houses called the *Nova Opera*, on the north side of the market-place, and two large gate-houses at the east end. He also granted to the corporation and citizens permission to have a reservoir, or conduit,^z near the high cross there, to be supplied by

^z The Bishop's grant is to this effect :—"To all faithful people in Christ, to whom this present writing indented shall come, Thomas, by Divine permission, Bishop of Bath and Wells, greeting, in him who for the gift of a cup of cold water hath promised eternal life, Forasmuch as we know that some of ye faithful doubt but that those things which we sow on earth, with regard to eternity, we shall be certain to gather in heaven with multiplied increase ; and, as we may express ourselves by copious handfulls, We, therefore, Thomas de Beckington, by Divine permission, the undeserving minister of the churches of Bath and Wells, most earnestly desiring, while time is allowed us upon earth, to labour for all people, but more especially for our nearest and most dear sons William Vowell, master, and the brethren and fellow citizens and burgesses of our city or borough of Wells, do grant to the said &c. to have and to hold, for ever, of the Bishop and his successors, one head for a water-conduit, with troughs, pipes, and other necessary engines above and under ground, to be supplied from certain water within the precincts of our Palace, called St. Andrew's Well, by pipes of lead twelve inches in circumference, &c. the overplus, or waste water, to run night and day for the supply of the Bishop's mills :"—The said Vowell, the citizens and burgesses binding themselves in return "to visit, once every year, the spot in Wells Cathedral where Bishop Thomas should be interred, and there pray for his soul and the souls of all the faithful deceased :"—for which service the same Prelate granted them an indulgence of forty days.

In the "*Anglia Sacra*," are some particulars of the life of Bishop Beckington, chiefly taken from the "*Panegyrick*," of Thomas Chaundler (who

pipes from St. Andrew's Well, within the precincts of the episcopal palace; and the grant was confirmed by the respective chapters of Bath and Wells, on September the 20th, 1451.

Beckington's successor was *John Phreas* or *Free*, who was master of Baliol College in the year 1462. According to Bale, he was born in London, and educated at Oxford, where he acquired great skill in the Greek and Latin languages, after which he visited

was Chancellor of Oxford in 1457 and 1472) on William of Wickham. They are given dialogue-wise, in florid language, but not altogether inelegant. The principal parts are here translated: it will be seen that they relate to the Cathedral establishment of Wells as well as to the Bishop. Chaundler ascribes the building of the episcopal palace to Beckington, with whom he was a contemporary and most probably on terms of friendship; yet that is not entirely correct: the palace was repaired, not rebuilt by him, and a new tower or gatehouse added, together with a cloister leading to the great hall; but those have long since been destroyed. The speakers are Ferrandus and Panestius.

Ferrandus. "Having wandered over the hills, and through valleys, where the dirt and mire are plentiful, from the beautiful and sublime University of Oxford, we have entered into this little village, O most delightful companion, Panestius. After so long a journey, I wish to rest a little: these limbs are so weary that, doubtless, if I had not supported myself with a staff, I should have fallen to the ground."

Panestius. "You should call it a city rather than a village, which would be more evident to you, could you see all the beauty and neatness that is within it. That most beautiful Church, which we discern at a distance, consecrated to Andrew, the most pious apostle of the immortal God, contains the episcopal chair of a worthy priest. It has also, adjoining to it, an extensive Palace, adorned with wonderful splendour, surrounded with flowing waters, and crowned with a fine row of turreted walls, in which dwells the most dignified and learned prelate, *Thomas*, the first of that name. This man, by his sole industry and disbursements, raised this city to its present state of splendour:—fortifying the church in the strongest manner with gates, towers, and walls, and building the palace in which he lives, with other edifices, in the most sumptuous style; so that he not only merits to be called the founder, but more deservedly the grace and ornament of the church.

"That the clergymen here are religious in their manners, honest in their lives, noble in hospitality, affable and agreeable to strangers, and to all benevolent, you will first discover from observation, and then learn from experience; for they are accustomed to wait on strangers and travellers with every office of humanity, and they seem to contend who shall first invite any one, and prevail on him to partake of their hospitality. The urbanity of the inferior clerks, whom they call vicars, the order and concord of the citizens, the just laws, the excellent polity, the delightful situation of the place, the neatness of the dwellings, the intrinsic prudence of the people, and the adornment, honour, and pleasantness of the whole, both make and ornament this city; the name of which is Wells (*Fontana*) so called by its ancient inhabitants from the fountains gushing out in every part.

Ferrandus. "You said just now that *Thomas*, a very worthy and learned man, presided over the church,—in what learning is he skilled?"

Panestius. "When he was in his tender years, a boy of good natural parts, he was sent to Winchester to be instructed in grammar; and, at his very

various continental universities.^a During his journey he practised physic at Ferrara, Florence, and Passan: and arriving at Rome, he became acquainted with the most eminent literati of that city, and was introduced to Pope Pius the Second, who advanced him to this Bishopric; but he died at Rome, within a month after his appointment, not without suspicion of poison.^b

Richard Stillington, LL.D. archdeacon of Taunton, dean of the chapel royal, and keeper of the privy seal, was next promoted to this See by Edward the Fourth, with whom he was greatly in favour, and "under whom he flourished in great authority." He was consecrated by the archbishop of York, at York House, Westmin-

outset, he had so much eloquence in discourse, elegance of person, perspicacity of intellect, and gravity of manners, that all who beheld him foretold that he would become a bishop. But when, at length, that most pious and prudent manager, William of Wyckham, the founder of the leading clergy, turned his eyes upon him, perceiving, by the wonderful dispensation of God, to what dignity the boy would attain, and of what utility the same would be to his Colleges (nothing important intervening) by his mere motion and sole mandate had him taken to Winchester College; where, studying grammar and rhetoric, he in a short time surpassed both equals and superiors; and for his merit was translated thence to Oxford College. In the flower of his youth he surpassed his elders; and he was created the most eloquent doctor of laws in the kingdom of England. He might be considered an old man in understanding; and his memory was strong. He held the principles of logic (which a young man should learn before the civil laws and philosophy, and which he had acquired by hearing and reading) so strongly in his remembrance, that if you were to hear him discourse, you would suppose him to be one of the most learned of the philosophers in scholastic learning. Thus was he planted, and thus watered by the showers of the liberal arts and laws; and he was so skilled in the Divine Scriptures, that whatever difficulty might seem to oppose, either by the wonderful perspicuity of his intellect, or by the industry of his scientific erudition, he would easily solve it. Should you hear him speak either in public or private, you will be delighted to find what eloquence is mingled with his discourse. Never did I know any one weary of his eloquence, so sweetly and so artfully he concludes all things. O, this is a happy country, over which such a worthy priest presides! Born and educated in the same, he chose his surname from the village from whence he sprung, that he might be called Thomas of Beckington in common. Of the poor and the clergy, a lover; and always carrying bowels of compassion for the miserable. Happy priest! who dries the tears of many whom he never saw. He also has the greatest friendship for learned men and philosophers. Now let us go down to his house, for I experienced his kindness four years, when he was Chancellor of Oxford.—He was so strenuous in carrying on affairs that, at the first look, by his nod alone he could quiet abominable outrages. He was affable to all; and it was his continual study to be loved by all: just as much as other men desire riches and honour, so did he desire to engage the affections. Thus he, a wise and prudent man, and a lover of peace, endeavoured to enrich other men."—"Anglia Sacra," pars ii. pp. 357, 358.

^a *Illustrium Magnæ Britanniae Scriptorum*, &c. Cent. 8. c. 38.

^b "Anglia Sacra," pars i. p. 574.

ster, on the 16th of March, 1466. On the 8th of June, 1468, he was made chancellor of England, which office he held till the year 1473. He was a faithful adherent of the house of York, and much engaged in the tumultuary proceedings of his time. Edward employed him in several embassies, and particularly in that to the Duke of Bretagne to prevail on him to deliver up the person of the Earl of Richmond, afterwards Henry the Seventh; in which business," says Godwin, though unsuccessful, "hee so bestirred himself, as that his double diligence therein proved afterwards his overthrow." ^c The same writer states he temporized with Richard the Third, and "was a man specially imployed in his coronation." On the exaltation of Henry the Seventh, in 1485, he was forbidden the court, and, about two years afterwards, was accused of treason for his real or supposed concern in the conspiracy of Lambert Simnel. The Bishop took refuge at Oxford, seeking protection from the privileges of the university, but the King caused him to be arrested in October, 1487, with the consent and connivance of the Chancellor, ^d and he was committed prisoner to Windsor Castle, where he remained till his decease, about Midsummer, 1491. He was buried at Wells, in a small chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary, which had been built by himself, in the eastern part of the cloisters. "In that Chappell," says Godwin, "his body rested but a short time: for it is reported that divers olde men, who in their youth had not onely seene the celebration of his funerals, but also the building of his toombe, chappell, and all, did also see toombe and chappell destroyed, and the bones of the Bishop that built them turned out of the lead in which they were interred."

^c "Catalogue," &c. p. 377.

^d The then Chancellor was John Russell, Bishop of Lincoln, who was the first that possessed the Chancellorship for life.—Thomas Cornish, whom Le Neve calls "titular Bishop of Tyne," was constituted suffragan Bishop of Wells by Bishop Beckington, in 1459: and he held that appointment for fifty-four years, till his death in July, 1513. He had been elected master of Oriel College, Oxford, in February, 1492-3; and Chancellor of Wells, in April, 1499. Vide Le Neve's "Fasti Ecclesiæ," &c. p. 486; and "Anglia Sacra," pars i. p. 575.

The Chapel was destroyed by Sir John Gates, in the time of Edward the Sixth.^e

Richard Fox, LL. D. the succeeding Bishop, was translated from Exeter on the 8th of February, 1491-2, by a bull of Pope Innocent the Eighth, and his temporalities were restored on the 4th of May following. He was a great and deserved favorite of Henry the Seventh, whose interests he had zealously maintained, and with whom he had been an exile on the continent. His abilities for state affairs were of the highest order, and he was employed in several foreign embassies of great importance. He was made keeper of the privy seal, secretary, and one of the council, immediately on Henry's attaining the crown: and shortly after his return from Scotland, whither he had been sent to negotiate a peace, in the second year of that king's reign, he was advanced to the See of Exeter, in April, 1487. Godwin intimates that he was born at Grantham, in Lincolnshire; in which place, and also at Taunton, he founded free schools. He was educated at Pembroke Hall, Cambridge; of which he was elected master in 1507; but he had previously taken his degree of Doctor of Laws at Oxford.^f About the end of the year 1494, he was translated from Bath and Wells to the bishopric of Durham, and thence, in 1502, to Winchester, where he continued till his decease in extreme age, in 1528; after having been blind several years. He was buried in Winchester Cathedral, a part of which church was repaired and partly rebuilt by him^g in the style of the age, probably from his own designs; as his skill in pointed architecture is praised by his biographers. He founded Corpus Christi College, at Oxford, in 1516, by the advice of Bishop Oldam, of Exeter, who persuaded

^e It appears from the Tower Records, that in the 18th year of Edward the Fourth, the parliament passed an act absolving Bishop Stillington from all treasons he might have incurred during the contest between the rival houses of York and Lancaster.

^f Vide "*De Præsulibus*," &c p. 235.

^g For the particulars of his works there, see "*The History and Antiquities of the See and Cathedral of Winchester*," p. 68, 94, and 96.

him to erect a college rather than endow a monastery, as was his first purpose.

The successor of Bishop Fox was *Oliver King*, I.L.D. who was translated from Exeter to this See on the 6th of November, 1495, and he was enthroned at Wells on the 12th of March in the following year. Very little is recorded of his early life; but Godwin says that he was brought up in King's College, Cambridge, of which he afterwards became a fellow. He was eminent both as a divine and a politician; and, according to the inscription on an oaken screen near the monumental and chantry Chapel, which he erected for his own burial place, in Saint George's Chapel at Windsor, he was principal Secretary to Prince Edward (son of Henry the Sixth), also to the Kings Edward the Fourth and Fifth, and to King Henry the Seventh: he was also Registrar of the Order of the Garter. This prelate founded and partly rebuilt the new Abbey Church at Bath, and he is reported to have been induced to that munificent undertaking by a dream, or vision.^b He died, however, before the completion of the building; and from the occurrence of the Reformation, and other circumstances, it was not finished till the reign of James the First. He died on the 29th of August, 1503; but the place of his interment, whether at Bath or at Windsor, has not been satisfactorily ascertained.ⁱ

Adrian, or *Hadrian de Castello*, a native of Corneto, "a poore fisher towne" in Tuscany, whom Pope Innocent the Eighth had sent on a legantine mission to James the Third, King of Scotland, in 1488, succeeded Bishop King in this Diocese. Godwin states that he was of mean, "or rather very base" parentage; but by his attention to study, and through his virtues and good deserts, he rose, "by many degrees," to his eventual eminence. On his arrival in London, he was informed

^b For a full account of Bishop King's new Building see "The History and Antiquities of Bath Abbey Church," in which the principal architectural features of that building are illustrated by views, elevations, and details.

ⁱ Further particulars of the life of Bishop King are given in the work just referred to; as well as an inquiry into the place of his burial.

that the Scottish King had been killed in battle; he therefore refrained from pursuing his journey. Becoming acquainted with Archbishop Morton, that prelate, from admiration of his talents and discreet carriage, recommended him to the King, Henry the Seventh, who constituted him his Proctor, for the dispatch of all his causes at the court of Rome; and afterwards, in 1502, he advanced him to the See of Hereford, in reward for his fidelity and good conduct. About the same time, Pope Alexander the Sixth promoted him to the rank of Cardinal, by the title of St. Chrisogonus, he having before been appointed the Pope's general Treasurer in England, and principal Secretary. In these stations he amassed considerable riches, which exciting the avarice of that monster of iniquity, Cæsar Borgia, Alexander's son, he devised a scheme to poison him with medicated Falernian wine; but, from an accidental circumstance, both Borgia and his father partook of the deadly draught (August the 18th, 1503) instead of the destined victim.^j In August, 1504, Cardinal Adrian, with the King's consent, was translated from Hereford to this See, by Pope Julius the Second; and he was enthroned at Wells, by proxy, on the 20th of October, Polydore

^j The circumstances of this event are thus related by Godwin, "Cæsar Borgia, the Pope's sonne, hoping to make a prey of the same, [his riches], determined to poyson him, and accordingly provided certaine flagons of poysoned wine to bee brought vnto the Cardinal's vineyard, where the Pope had appointed to sup, giving great charge vnto the messenger, that no body should meddle with the wine before himselfe came. Howbeit the Pope comming in very hote and weary, sooner than he was expected, and calling for drinke, when as yet no provision was brought to the place; the messenger thinking the wine brought by him to bee some excellent and choice stuffe reserved for the Pope's own cup, filled out the same vnto him. While he was yet drinking, in came his sonne, who, not perceiving the error, pledged his father. The Pope (as being thirsty) tooke a great draught, and moreover being very aged, died the next day. His sonne being yong, and happily not taking so much, applying also convenient remedies, recovered, but lay sicke very long, which was the cause of his utter overthrow at the last. Thus died that monster of his age, Alexander the Sixth. And thus by his owne diuclish device came this Borgia to his destruction, whom Machiavel in his workes so much magnifieth. Guicciardini (that writeth this story) sayeth, that by the like practise he and his father had made away diuers others before that time, as namely, the Cardinals of Capua, and Mutina, men very loving and faithfull vnto them. At last it pleased God in this sort to serve them of their owne sauce, and to bring them into the pitte they had digged for others." Vide "Catalogue," &c. p. 380. This account of the death of Pope Alexander has been disputed by some writers, but, apparently, without sufficient cause, as other reputable historians have

Virgil, the Sub-collector of the Papal revenues, acting as his substitute on that occasion. It does not appear that the Cardinal was in England after this promotion, but on the contrary, he let out the profits of his Diocese to farm; till at length, in July, 1518, he was excommunicated, and deprived of all his dignities, in consequence of engaging in the conspiracy of Alfonso Petruccio, and other Cardinals, against the life of Leo the Tenth. He is said to have been induced to join the conspirators by the prediction of a Witch, who prophesied that after Leo's death Adrian should be Pope;^k but "the word of promise," if kept "to his ear," was "broken to his hope," the Adrian that succeeded him being a Dutchman. Petruccio was put to death, but the other Cardinals were spared on acknowledging their guilt. On Adrian a fine of 12,500 ducats was imposed, which he being unable to pay, withdrew from Rome; and, according to Godwin, was "never eyther scene or heard of afterwards:"^l but other writers have stated that he took refuge among the Turks in Asia. Polydore Virgil extols his talents and learning, and says that he was the first since the age of Cicero who revived the purity of the Latin language, and taught men to draw their knowledge from the best and most learned authors.

During the latter part of Adrian's time, the revenues of this See were rented by the famous Cardinal THOMAS WOLSEY, whose splendid and pre-eminent talents had advanced him from the humblest rank of society to the highest offices of both church and state. To enter into any

attested it, besides Guicciardini. The insatiable avarice of Pope Alexander gave rise to the following pointed epigram:—

Vendit Alexander claves, altaria, Christum,
Vendere jure potest; emerat ille prius.

Christ's altars, keys, and Christ himself,
Were barter'd by this Pope for pelf!
And who shall say he did not well?—
That which he bought he sure might sell.

^k P. Jovius, in "Vitâ Leonis," l. 4, p. 77. See also, "Anglia Sacra," pars. i. p. 577; and Godwin, "De Præsulibus," p. 387.

^l Godwin's "Catalogue," &c. p. 382; and "Anglia Sacra," *ut supra*. Adrian is said to have erected a magnificent Palace at Rome, bequeathing it to Henry the Seventh (whose name was inscribed upon the front of it) and his successors. Vide "Biographia Britannica."

particular detail of his history would be to abstract from the annals of the realm a considerable portion of its most important materials for a long and eventful period preceding the Reformation: a brief sketch of his life must, therefore, suffice in this place, and which is now given from a consideration of the conspicuous part that Wolsey acted upon the public stage, and to compensate for the short notice that was taken of him in the *History and Antiquities of York Cathedral*.^m He was the son of a butcher, and born at Ipswich, in Suffolk, in the year 1471. Being educated in Magdalen College, Oxford, he proceeded Master of Arts, and was elected a fellow of that society. In 1500, the Marquis of Dorset, to whose sons he had been tutor, preferred him to the benefice of Limington, in Somersetshire. Whilst there, his conduct is reported to have been so irregular, that Sir Amias Pawlet caused him to be "set in the stocks," for a breach of the peace; but Godwin adds, "upon little or no occasion."ⁿ On the death of his patron, Wolsey quitted his living, and went to Calais, where he was hospitably entertained by an aged knight, named Sir John Naphaunt, who made him his chaplain; and by whose interest he was subsequently appointed chaplain to King Henry the seventh. "Now was he," says Godwin, "where he would be. Many times he was wont to say (as I have heard) that if he could once set but one foote in the Court, he would not doubt but attaine what he list. And to speak but the truth, it was not onely his good fortune that exalted him in that wonderfull greatnesse, but much deale his owne industrie, and

^m Few public characters have been so much the subject of biographical and critical comment as Cardinal Wolsey. Exclusive of the ample details in our general English historians, his "Life and times" have been separately narrated by—1. Thomas Storer, in verse, in a quarto volume, 1599;—2. Another quarto volume, by Sir William Cavendish, in 1641;—3. An octavo volume, in 1708, by William Cavendish, Duke of Newcastle;—4. A folio volume, in 1724, by Dr. Fiddes;—5. Joseph Grove published four volumes, octavo, 1742;—6. An octavo volume, by George Cavendish, in 1767;—7. In 1812 a quarto volume appeared, by J. Galt, which has been since printed in octavo;—8. An inquiry, "Who wrote Cavendish's Life of Wolsey?" appeared in quarto, 1818 [by the Rev. Joseph Hunter];—9. In 1824 appeared an octavo volume, by George Howard, on the Cardinal and his times.

ⁿ "Catalogue of English Bishops," p. 618.

many extraordinary parts in him. He was marvellous wittie, well learned, faire spoken, and passing cunning in winning the hearts of those whose favor hee affected."^o With those qualities we are not surprised that he should so soon have advanced himself into the King's esteem; and his vast dispatch, in successfully negotiating some business with the Emperor Charles the Fifth, in the Low Countries (which "winde and weather favouring him," he is reported to have done, and to have returned to Court within four days after receiving his instructions), so effectually won Henry's favour, that he was shortly afterwards made Dean of Lincoln, and appointed the King's Almoner. The accession of Henry the Eighth proved the means of his exaltation to further dignities: "he soone crept so farre" into the good graces of the young King, "by applying himself to his humour, as he possessed him altogether, and in a manner at the first dash was made one of his Privy Counsell."^p His celerity in the dispatch of business, his vast abilities, and the magnificence of his living, which completely accorded with Henry's own disposition, secured to him an accumulation of honours and of power that has but few parallels. His elevation was so rapid and so great, and his mode of living so princely, that the most ancient and honourable families were eclipsed by his state and influence. For many years the direction of public affairs was wholly intrusted to his guidance, and until the agitation of the great question of the king's divorce awakened all the evil passions of Henry's mind and heart, he governed with almost regal ascendancy. In respect to preferments, he was, as the immortal Shakspeare has truly represented, "a man of an *unbounded stomach*;" but he expended his immense revenues with profuse generosity, and the extent and grandeur of his establishments evinced both the greatness of his spirit and the towering reach of his ambition. In 1512, the King conferred on him the proceeds of the Bishopric of Tournay, in Flanders; early in the ensuing

* "Catalogue of English Bishops," p. 619.

p Ibid.

year, viz. on the 8th of the ides of February, 1512-13, he was promoted to the See of Lincoln; and the 17th of the kalends of October following he was raised to the metropolitical See of York. About the same time Pope Leo the Tenth appointed him his *Legate a latere*; and shortly afterwards, September the 7th, 1515, he made him a Cardinal. This was quickly followed by his promotion to the Chancellorship of England; and "then," says Godwin, "as though the Archbishopricke of Yorke, and the Chauncellorship, were not sufficient for maintenance of a Cardinall, he tooke also unto him the Bishopricke at Bathe, holding it and the Abbey of St. Albon's, with divers other ecclesiastical livings, *in commendam*." His appointment to the See of Wells took place on the 30th of July, 1518: and the temporalities were restored to him by the King on the ensuing 28th of August. The great honours which Wolsey had now obtained only increased his desire for further distinctions, and on the decease of Pope Leo, in December, 1521, he became a candidate for the supreme tiara. Being disappointed in his hopes, he received as a compensation from the Emperor a pension of nine thousand crowns of gold; and his own sovereign conferred upon him the rich Bishopric of Durham, to accept which, in April, 1523, he resigned the See of Bath and Wells. After the death of Adrian the Sixth, in December the same year, he made a second attempt to obtain the Papacy, but without success. In 1529, he exchanged Durham for Winchester, which was the last of his promotions, for he soon afterwards lost the favour of the King; who, being dissatisfied with his conduct respecting the divorce from Queen Katharine, caused an indictment to be preferred against him in the King's Bench, on the Statute of Provisors; and but for the grateful offices of Cromwell, afterwards Earl of Essex, he would have suffered an attaint in Parliament. His fall proved yet more rapid than his elevation; and, notwithstanding the abjectness of his submission to his implacable master, he was reduced to such extreme penury that "he had scarce a cuppe to drinke in, or a

bed to lye in, but what was lent him ; for his moueables and household stuffe of inestimable valew were all taken away to the King's use." After a lapse of some months, Henry appeared to regard him with a gleam of returning favour ; but whilst he was endeavouring to reconcile himself to his reduced fortunes in his castellated palace at Cawood, in Yorkshire, his capricious sovereign caused him to be arrested, and he was hurried towards London. Falling ill, however, on the road, of a flux and fever (which are supposed to have sprung from the agitation of his mind), he was permitted to stop at Leicester Abbey, where he died, within eight days, on the 29th of November, 1530 : and he was there buried. His last words are reputed to have been these :—"If I had served God as diligently as I have done the King, he would not have given me over in my grey hairs ; but this is the just reward that I must receive for the pains and study that I have had to do him service, not regarding my service to God, so much as the satisfying of his pleasure."—This munificent but, in many instances, too haughty Prelate, commenced the foundation of two noble Colleges, the one at Ipswich, his birth-place (which was afterwards suppressed), and the other that of Christ Church, Oxford, which still flourishes. For the endowments of these Colleges, independently of what he bestowed from his own stores, he obtained the Pope's licence to dissolve forty small monasteries, "which opened a gap withall," says Bishop Godwin, "to King Henry to destroy all the reste ; as soon after he did."^a

The successor of Wolsey was *John Clarke*, D. D. who had been educated in the University of Cambridge, and was the King's Proctor and Orator at the Court of Rome. He had been made Dean of Windsor in 1519,

^a "Catalogue of English Bishops," p. 622. "Surely," says the same author, "it were a wonder that any private man should take two such peeces of worke in hand at one time (whereof any one might seeme a great matter for a Prince to finish), had not his receits beene infinite, and his helps otherwise very great. I thinke verily (and am able to yeeld good reason of my surmise) that if one man had now in his hands the reuenues of all the Bishopricks and Deaneries also in England, his rents would not arise to so high a reckoning as the yeerely receits of this Cardinall."

and was admitted into the Privy Council either in that or the following year. On the 20th of October, 1522, he was made Master of the Rolls; and in the spring of the following year he was advanced to this See, the temporalities of which were restored to him on the 2d of May. He was a prelate of great learning and considerable diplomatic talents, which occasioned Henry the Eighth frequently to employ him in foreign embassies. In the year 1540, he was sent ambassador to the Duke of Cleves, "to tender a reason of the King's divorce from the Lady Anne of Cleves, his sister;" but whilst in his court he was taken ill (from the effect of poison, as supposed), and returned with difficulty to his native land. On his decease, shortly afterwards, viz. January the 3d, 1540-1, he was buried, according to Weever and Godwin, in the church of the Friars' Minors, near Aldgate; but Bishop Kennet, in his MS. *Diptycha*, says that he was interred in the Church of St. Botolph, Aldgate. In his time the Reformation took place: all the Monasteries were suppressed; Papal predominancy was abrogated, and the King declared to be the Supreme Head of the English Church.

CHAP. III.

HISTORICAL NOTICES OF THE SEE AND BISHOPS OF BATH AND WELLS, FROM THE PERIOD OF THE REFORMATION TO THE YEAR 1847.

SOON after the demise of Bishop Clarke, *William Knight*, LL.D. a native of London, was appointed to this See. He had received his early education at Winchester, and from thence went to New College, Oxford; of which society he became fellow. He had obtained considerable patronage, and became successively Archdeacon of Chester in 1522; of Huntingdon in the following year; and afterwards of Richmond in 1529. He became Secretary to King Henry VIII. and was employed in foreign embassies, which he fulfilled to the satisfaction of his royal master; and, as a reward for these services, he was appointed to the See of Bath and Wells. He was consecrated May 29, and had his temporalities restored the 30th, 1541. In his time, 35 Henry VIII. an Act of Parliament was passed for settling the right of election of the Bishops of this See; whereby the Dean and Chapter of Wells being made one sole corporation, were vested with that power.*

He erected, in conjunction with Dean Woolman, the market-house in Wells, whereon his name was inscribed. He died in London, Sept. 29, 1547, and was conveyed to Wells, to be buried in his cathedral, for which purpose he had left £100 in his will, and was interred under the stone pulpit, which he had caused to be built adjoining Dr. Sugar's chapel on the South side

* See Dugdale's *Monast.* vol. ii. p. 293, No. xxviii.

of the nave, between two pillars, opposite to Bishop Bubwith's. His arms are sculptured on the pulpit.

Within a few months after the decease of Bishop Knight, *William Barlow*, D. D. was translated from St. David's to this See, through the influence of the Protector, Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset, and by the Letters Patent of Edward the Sixth, dated February the 3d, 1548.^b He had previously been a Canon of St. Osyth, Prior of Bisham, and Bishop of St. Asaph; from which latter Diocese he was promoted to St. David's, in April, 1536. Like many of his predecessors this prelate was eminent for his talents and learning; but he has been accused of unwarrantably alienating the possessions of his See, and of dismantling the ecclesiastical buildings both at Wells and at St. David's, from motives of personal aggrandisement and rapacity. There is not, however, any sufficient foundation for this harsh charge; nor was Barlow more guilty than many of his episcopal brethren, who, from the peculiar circumstances of the times, were *constrained* to submit to spoliation which they dared not resist without endangering both their own safety and the loss of the whol of their diocesan revenues.^c

Collinson states that, when the Protector returned victorious from the Scottish wars, the King bestowed on him a large gratuity for his services out of the lands and possessions of this Bishopric; "insomuch that the liberty, borough, and manor of Wells, the hundred of Wells-Forum, the manors of Wookey, Banwell, Chew-

^b "Rymer's Fœdera," tom. xv. p. 159, 1st edit.

^c Bentham, the historian of Ely, speaking of a period only a few years subsequent to Barlow's episcopacy at Wells, makes the following judicious remarks in extenuation of what Browne Willis had styled "sacrilegious alienations:"—"Had these alienations been the voluntary acts of the Bishops, the censure had been justly laid; but, as the law then stood, the Queen [Elizabeth] had it wholly in her power to make those exchanges; and might, I conceive, have taken to herself, had she so pleased, all the estates of all the Bishoprics in England, by way of Exchange, without asking the consent of the Bishops." See "History," &c. "of the Cathedral Church of Ely," edition 1800, p. 196.—Now the law, as it regarded the power of the Sovereign or his council, to make alienations, was equally as strong in Edward the Sixth's time as in Queen Elizabeth's; and Barlow could no more have resisted the will of the Protector Somerset, than many other Prelates could that of the Queen; for, as Bentham has truly said, "there was not a Bishopric

Magna, Blackford, Wellington, Cranmore, and Evercreech; the borough of Wellington, the hundreds of Winterstoke and Chew; as also the parks of Wells, Banwell, and Evercreech, with all their appurtenances, were at one stroke alienated from the Bishopric to the said Duke of Somerset, his heirs, and assigns: Barlow, then Bishop of the See, acquiescing in the disposal of them, upon the Duke's promise of two thousand pounds, and the Dean and Chapter confirming the Bishop's deed."^d Shortly after the above alienation, namely, on the 20th of May, 1548, this prelate consigned, by license, to the King a further and very considerable portion of the demesnes and manors of his See, together with "his messuage called *Bathe Place*, formerly the *Myneryes*, without Aldgate, London;" the site of the Hospital of St. John, at Wells; and various farms, advowsons, hereditaments, and other possessions of his See, in exchange for certain rectories, churches, &c. which had previously belonged to the Abbeys of Glastonbury and Bath; but all of which are said to have been "a very insufficient consideration for the lands thus shamefully dismembered from the Bishopric."^e

It appears from a "Latin relation," quoted by Sir John Harington, but without sufficient distinctness to enable us to refer to the work itself, that Bishop Barlow,

in the kingdom (except perhaps *Bristol, Gloucester, Oxford* and *Peterborough* which had nothing to spare), from which she did not at some time take to herself a considerable part, and, generally speaking, the best and most valuable part of their possessions; giving them in exchange, as she might legally do, either the tenths of the clergy, or rectories inappropriate."—But Barlow's character may be still more directly vindicated than by inferential deduction; for in the very first year of Elizabeth's reign, and whilst he was yet only Bishop elect of Chichester, he united with four others, who were in similar situations, viz. Parker, of Canterbury; Grindall, of London; Cox, of Ely; and Scory, of Hereford, in a strong petition to the Queen, praying her, among other grievances, to "*remitte*" the "alterations and exchange," which was then taking place in respect to tenths and inappropriate rectories, and offering "an annual pension of one thousand marks" for the required exoneration. It may, therefore, be fairly argued that Barlow did not willingly consent to the alienations for which he has been so much abused; nor yet promote the ravages and dilapidations which, in his time, befel the Cathedral establishment at Wells.

^d "History of Somersetshire," vol. iii. p. 395. In his account of Wellington, vide *Ib.* vol. ii. p. 482, Collinson refers the "License to alienate;" to the 2d of Edward VI.

^e "History of Somersetshire," vol. iii. p. 395, 396.

was married, and had a numerous offspring; that one of his sons had a Prebend in Wells Cathedral; and that "he bestowed his five daughters on five most worthie men, of which three are Bishops at this houre; and the other, for their merit, are in men's expectation designed to the like dignitie hereafter."^f From the same work Harington says, that Barlow was deprived for his marriage, "and lyved as a man banished in Germany."^g That deprivation took place on the accession of Queen Mary; but, on her decease, November the 17th, 1558, he returned to England, and was nominated Bishop of Chichester; the See of Bath and Wells having during his exile, been given by Mary to Gilbert Bourne. He died, according to Le Neve, in August, 1568, and was interred in his own Cathedral: but Godwin assigns his decease to the year 1569.

The spoliations that were committed here during the episcopacy of Barlow are thus related and descanted on by Harington:—"Scarce were five years past after Bathes ruins, but as fast went the axes and hammers to work at Wells. The goodly hall, covered with lead, (because the rooffe might seeme too low for so large a roome) was uncovered; and now this rooffe reaches to the sky. The Chappell of our Lady, late repayred by Stillington, a place of great reverence and antiquitie, was likewise defaced; and such was their thirst after

^f Vide "*Nugæ Antiquæ*," vol. ii. p. 144, Park's edition; in which it is stated in a note that, in 1608, all the five persons on whom Bishop Barlow had bestowed his daughters, had been made Bishops. The Latin work alluded to by Sir John Harington was not Godwin's "*De Præsulibus*," as supposed by Park; there being no information of the kind in that publication. Could it have been Godwin's "*Nuncius Inanimatus in Utopia; et Catalogus Episcoporum Bathoniensium et Wellensium*;" which was published in 8vo. 1629, and afterwards translated into English, anno 1657, by the learned Dr. Thomas Smith? It appears from Wood, that the name of Barlow's wife was Agatha Wellesbourne; and that his daughters were married to the following Prelates:—1. Anne, to Herbert Westphaling, Bishop of Hereford; 2. Elizabeth, to William Day, Bishop of Winchester; 3. Margaret, to William Overton, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry; 4. Frances, to Tobie Matthew, Archbishop of York; 5. Antonia, to William Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester. "*Athenæ Oxonienses*," edit. by Bliss, vol. i. col. 365.

^g Wood states that, upon Queen Mary's coming to the crown, in 1553, Barlow "was deprived of his Bishopric for being married, and committed for some time to the Fleet; whence, escaping, he retired with many others into Germany, under pretence of religion, and lived there in a poor and exiled condition." *Ibid.*

lead (I would they had drunke it scalding) that they tooke the dead bodies of Bishops out of their leaden coffins, and cast abroad the carkases skarce throughly putrified. The statues of brass, and all the auncient monuments of Kings, benefactors to that goodly Cathedrall Church, went all the same way, sold (as my author wrytes) to an alderman of London, who, being then rich, and, by this great bargaine, thinking to have increast it, found it like *aurum Tholosanum*; for he so decayd after, no man knew how, that he brake in his mayoraltie. The statues of Kings were shipt from Bristoll; but, disdayning to be banisht out of their own countrie, chose rather to lie in St. George his Channell, where the ship was drown'd.—These things were, I will not say done, I will say, at least, suffered by this Bishop; but I doubt not but he repented hereof, and did penance also in his banishment, *in sacco et cinere.*^h—Barlow was the author of several Tracts against the abuses and rites of the Roman Catholic Religion.

Gilbert Bourne, or *Bourn*, D.D. was by the appointment of Queen Mary, elected to this See on the 28th of March, 1554; and, having been consecrated on the first of April, in St. Saviour's Church, Southwark, he had his temporalities restored on the twentieth of the same month. He was a native of Worcestershire, and either nephew or brother to Sir John Bourne, who became principal Secretary of State to Queen Mary. He was entered a student at Oxford in 1524; and, in 1531, he

^h "Nugæ Antiquæ," vol. ii. p. 147. In the following page the author says—"There remayne yet in the bodie of Wells Church, about thirty foote high, two eminent images of stone, set there (as is thought) by Bishop Burnell, that built the great hall there in the raigne of Edw. I.; but most certainly long before the raigne of Hen. VIII. One of these images is of a king crowned, the other is of a Bishop myterd. This King, in all proportions resembling Hen. VIII. holdeth in his hande a childe falling; the Bishop hath a woman and children about him. Now the old men of Wells had a tradition, that when there should be such a King and such a Bishop, then the Church should be in daunger of ruine. This falling childe they said was King Edward; the fruitful Bishop they affirmed was Dr. Barlow, the first maryed Bishop of Wells, and perhaps of England. This talke being rife in Wells, in Queen Marye's time, made him rather affect Chichester at his return, than Wells, where not only the things that were ruind, but those that remayned, served for records and remembrances of his sacriledge." The images alluded to in this passage are not statues, but busts: they are attached to the wall of the nave, between the arches and the triforium.

was elected a fellow of All Souls College in that University. He had the reputation of being a good orator and disputant. In 1541, 33d of Henry VIII. he was appointed one of the first Prebendaries of Worcester; and two years afterwards was admitted to the degree of Bachelor of Divinity; about the same time he became Chaplain to Bishop Bonner, "and a preacher against the heretics of the times."ⁱ On the 7th of July, 1549, he was installed Archdeacon of Bedford; at which time he appears to have favoured the tenets of the Reformation; but "in the beginning of Queen Mary's reign he turned about, and became so zealous for the Roman Catholic cause that, preaching at Paul's-Cross in behalf of the said Bonner, then present, against his late unjust sufferings, and against the unhappy times of King Edward VI., as he called them, he had a dagger thrown at him by one of the auditors; whereupon, Bourn withdrawing himself to prevent farther danger, the work was carried on by another."^j

Soon after his appointment to this Diocese, Bishop Bourne was constituted President of Wales, and Queen Mary regarded him with great favour; but after the accession of Elizabeth he was deprived of his bishopric for refusing to acknowledge the supremacy of that Princess, and committed to the "free custody" of "Master Carey," or Carew, Dean of her Majesty's Chapel, and afterwards of Exeter. He then "gave himself up

ⁱ "Athenæ Oxonienses," by Bliss, vol. ii. col. 805.

^j Ibid. According to Holinshed, the above event occurred on the 13th of August, 1553, when Bourne, "taking occasion of the gospell of that daie, spake somewhat largelie in the iustifieing of Bishop Bonner, being present at the sermon, which Bishop (as the said preacher then openlie said) for a sermon made upon the same text, and in the same place, the same daie foure yeeres afore passed, was most vniustlie cast into the vile dungeon of the Marshalsea among theeves, and there kept during the time of King Edward's reigne. This matter being set foorth with great vehemencie, so much offended the eares of part of the audience, that they brake silence, and began to murmur and throng together in such sort, as the maior and aldermen, with other of the wiser sort then present, feared much an vprore. During which muttering, one more feruent than his fellowes threw a dagger at the preacher; but who it was, came not to knowledge. By reason of which outrage the preacher withdrew himselfe from the pulpit; and one maister Bradford, at the request of the preacher's brother and others standing there, tooke the place, and spake so mildlie to the people, that with few words he appeased their furie: and after the said maister Bradford and maister

wholly to reading and devotion ;”^k till his decease, at Silverton, in Devonshire, on the 10th of September, 1569. He was buried near the altar in Silverton Church.

The “nonage,” says Godwin, “of that good King Edward the Sixth, giuing opportunity to those horrible sacriledges that robbed the Cathedrall Churches of England of (I dare say) the one halfe of that they possessed, had beene an occasion of the vtter ruine and destruction of this See, if Bishop Barlow, taking advantage of the death of some men in the latter end of King Edward, and Bishop Bourne, making vse of the zeale of Queen Mary, in tendring the state of the Church, had not beene the means of recouering what is now left vnto the same, even the lands of the Bishopricke, in a manner euery whit; all the land belonging to the Archdeacon of Wells, and some land of the Chapter, to wit, the parsonages of Dulverton and Longsutton.”^l

According to Collinson, the annual value of the lands recovered by Bishop Bourne was three hundred and thirty-two pounds, eighteen shillings, and elevenpence. They included the manors of Wells, Chard, Huish Episcopi, Wookey, Evercreech, Cranmore, Combe, Banwell, Chew, Cheddar, &c.; but the Bishop could not obtain this restitution till he had consented to alienate to the crown the manors of Congresbury and Yatton.

After the deprivation of Bourne, Queen Elizabeth caused *Gilbert Berkeley*, S. T. P. a descendant of the noble family of the Berkeleys, in Gloucestershire, but a native of Norfolk, to be elected to this See on the 29th of January, 1559-60. He was consecrated at Lambeth on the 24th of March following; and had his temporalities restored on the 10th of July, 1560. Scarcely any

Rogers, although men of contrarie religion, conueied the said preacher into Paules Schoole, and there left him safelie.”—“Chronicles,” vol. iv. p. 3, edit. 1808. It is a curious fact that both Bradford and Rogers, who thus quelled an incipient riot which might have shaken Mary’s throne from its basis, were afterwards burnt at the stake for their religion in the sanguinary reign of that bigoted Sovereign.

^k “*Athenæ Oxonienses*,” vol. ii. col. 806.

^l “*Catalogue of English Bishops*,” p. 384.

thing is known of this Prelate, although he governed this Diocese nearly two and twenty years. Sir John Harington, speaking from the Latin treatise already noticed, says, "I can add of this Gilbert but a worde, that he was a good justicer (as saith the same author, '*nisi quatenus homo uxorius conjugis importunitate impulsus a veri ac recti tramite aberravit*', saving that sometimes being ruled by his wife, by her importunitie, he swerved from the rule of justice and sinceritie); especially in persecuting the kindred of Bourne, his predecessor. The fame went that he dyed very rich; but the same importunate woman caryed it all away, that neither Church nor the poore were the better for it."^m Bishop Berkeley died on the 2nd of November, 1581; and was buried on the north side of the altar of his own Cathedral.

After his decease the Bishopric remained vacant almost three years, when the Queen bestowed it on *Thomas Godwin*, D. D. Dean of Canterbury, who was then in the sixty-seventh year of his age, having been born in 1517, at Oakingham, in Berkshire. His parentage was humble, and he was taught the rudiments of education at the grammar-school in his native place, where his talents attracted the attention of Dr. Richard Layton, Archdeacon of Bucks, and afterwards Dean of York, who, having in his own house instructed him in classical learning, had him entered a student of Magdalen College, Oxford, about the year 1538, and supported him there till his own decease, in 1544. In the following year Godwin, being then B. A., was elected a fellow in the above College, and, in 1547. he proceeded M. A.; but about two years afterwards he exchanged his fellowship for the rectory of the free-school of Brackley, in Northamptonshire; his brother collegians, who were mostly papists, having rendered his situation unpleasant. Whilst at Brackley he studied both divinity and physic; in which latter faculty he obtained the degree of M. B. in 1555, having been forced to quit his school, and resort to the practice of medicine for support, by the

^m "Nugæ Antiquæ," vol. ii. p. 150.

religious persecutions of Queen Mary's reign. Wood states that when Mary came to the crown, "he was silenced, and in a manner put to his shifts;"ⁿ and Fuller says, "Bonner threatened him with *fire* and *faggot*, which caused him often to obscure himself, and remove his habitation."^o In the beginning of Elizabeth's reign he received both holy orders and his first ecclesiastical preferment from Dr. Bullyngham, Bishop of Lincoln, who made him his chaplain, and being a chief instrument of his preaching before the Queen, she approved him and his person so well, that she thereupon made him Dean of Ch. Ch. in Oxon, in June, 1565: so that taking the degrees of divinity the same year, and being esteemed much by all for his learning and piety, he was made Dean of Canterbury, in the place of Dr. Nich. Wotton, deceased, an. 1566."^p The Queen also appointed him one of her Lent preachers; and was so much pleased by his discourses that, during eighteen years, she continued him in that office. In 1575 he was made one of the ecclesiastical Commissioners for the due regulation of the Church. On the 10th of August, 1584, he was elected to this See, and consecrated on the ensuing 13th of September. Harington says, "He came to the place as well qualified for a Bishop as mought be; unreprouely without symonie, given to good hospitallity, quyet, kynde, affable, a widower, and in the Queene's very good opinion, *non minor est virtus quam quærere parta tueri*."^q But he unfortunately lost her Majesty's favour by a second marriage with a widow; which was bruited in her ears as "a match of the devil's making," being done "for covetousness and not for comfort." Yet, "himself protested to me," Harington affirms, "with teares in his eyes, he tooke her but for a guide of his house; and for the rest

ⁿ "Athenæ Oxonienses," vol. iii. col. 827.

^o "Worthies," vol. i. p. 90; edit. 1811.

^p "Athenæ Oxonienses," *ut sup.* Fuller says, "He was an eloquent preacher, *tall* and *comely* in person; qualities which much endeared him to Queen Elizabeth, who loved *good parts* well, but better when in a *goodly* person." "Worthies;" *ut sup.*

^q "Nugæ Antiquæ," vol. ii. p. 151.

(they were his own words) he lyved with her as Josephe did with Mary, our lady." Fuller says—"Being infirm with age, and diseased with the *gout*, he was necessitated, for a *nurse*, to marry a second wife, a matron of years proportionable to himself; but this was by his *court enemies* (which no *Bishop* wanted in that age) represented to the Queen to his great disgrace; yea, they traduced him to have married a *girl of twenty years of age*, until the good Earl of Bedford, casually present at such discourse—"Madam," said he to her Majesty, "I know not how much the woman is above twenty; but I know a son of hers is but a little under forty." This marriage occasioned the Bishop so much inquietude that, to save the manor of Banwell, which he had been greatly importuned to part with by "my Lord of Leicester" and "Sir Walter Raleigh," he consented to lease out that of Wivelscombe for ninety-nine years. In his latter days he was afflicted with a quartan ague, and, retiring to Okingham, the place of his birth, he died there on the 19th of November, 1590; and was buried in the Church, where a monument was erected to his memory by his son, Francis Godwin, Sub-dean of Exeter, and afterwards Bishop of Llandaff and Hereford, the learned author of "*De Præsulibus Angliæ Commentarius*," and other works.

After a vacancy of upwards of two years, the very erudite *John Still*, D. D. a native of Grantham, in Lincolnshire, was made Bishop of this See. He was born in the year 1543, and educated at Christ's College, Cambridge, of which he became a fellow in 1560. In 1570, he was appointed Lady Margaret's Professor at Cambridge; and after several intermediate preferments he was elected Master of St. John's College, in 1574; which he voided for that of Trinity College, in 1577, on

"*Nugæ Antiquæ*," vol. ii. p. 156.—"Setting this one disgrace of his aside, he was a man very well esteemed in the countrie, beloved of all men for his great housekeeping; of the better sorte, for his kinde entertainment and pleasing discourse at his table. His reading had bene much, his judgment and doctrine sound, his government mylde and not violent, his mynde charitable; and therefore I doubt not but when he lost this life, he wonne Heaven according to his word, *win God win all*." Ibid.

"*Worthies*," vol. i. p. 90.

the advancement of John Whitgift to the Diocese of Worcester. He was held in great estimation both by Archbishop Parker and by Dean Nowell; and, on the recommendation of the latter, he was chosen, in 1588, Prolocutor of the Convocation, and preached the Latin sermon. In 1592-93, being then for the second time Vice-chancellor of Cambridge, he was promoted by Queen Elizabeth to this See, to which he was elected on the 3rd of January, and consecrated on the 11th of the following month.^t He retained this Bishopric till his decease, on the 26th of February, 1607; and he was interred, on the fourth of April, on the south side of the altar in Wells Cathedral; where a monument was erected to his memory by Nathaniel, his eldest son by his first marriage.^u The epitaph was written by the learned Camden.

Some amusing particulars of this Prelate are inserted in the "*Nugæ Antiquæ*."^v Sir John Harington, with whom he appears to have lived in much friendship, says that his tutor, Dr. Fleming, stiled him "*Divine Still*." "*His breeding*," he continues, "*was from his childhood in good litterature, and partly in musique, which was counted in those dayes a preparative to divinitie; neither could any be admitted to *primam tonsuram*, except he could first *bene le, bene con, bene can* (as they call it), which is to reade well, to conster well, and to sing well.—In his full time, more full of learning, he became bachelor of divinitie, and after doctor, and so famous a preacher, and speacially a disputer, that the learned'st were even affeard to dispute with him; and he, finding*

^t In the register of Trinity College is the following entry and encomium on Bishop Still:—"Religionis, doctrinæ gravitatis, prudentiæ nomine conspicuus, promotus est ad gubernationem Coll. D. Jo. ubi et in placido et turbato æquore gubernatorem egit scitum et cordatum. In collegium hoc assumptus 1577, per annos plus minus sexdecim patrem familias se ferebat, providum, ἀγαθὸν κουροτρόφον, nec collegio onerosum, nec suis gravem, ex solitudine et frugalitate magis quam sumptu et auctoritate præfectum dignoscere."—

^u In the pedigree of the family of Still, given in Hutchins's "*History of Dorsetshire*," and copied, with additions, in Sir Richard C. Hoare's "*Modern Wiltshire*," Hundred of Mere, the above Nathaniel is described as the Bishop's eldest son by his second wife, which must be erroneous.

^v Vol. ii. p. 158.

his owne strength, would not sticke to warne them in their arguments to take heede to their answers ; like a perfect fencer that will tell aforehand in which button he will give the venew.—And, not to insist long in a matter so notorious, it may suffice that, about twenty yeare since, when the great dyet, or meeting, should have bene in Germanie, for composing matters in religion, Doctor Still was chosen for Cambridge, and Doctor Humphrey for Oxford to oppose all commers for defence of the English Church.”

The same writer informs us that, during the vacancy of this See, “there was great enquiring who should have it ; and, as if all Bishops should now be sworne to follow *usum Sarum*,” every man made reckoning that the manor house and park of Banwell should be made a reward of some courtier ; and it increast this suspicion, that Thomas Henneage [Vice-chamberlain to the Queen, and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster], an old courtier, and zealous puritan, was said to have an eare in the matter ; whose conscience, if it were such in the cleargie as it was found in the Duchy, might well have digested a better booty than Banwell.”—Not any alienation, however, or sacrifice of church property was made by this Prelate ; and, as Fuller remarks, on his promotion to this See, “he defeated all causelesse suspicion of symoniacal compliance, coming clearly thereunto, without the least scandal to his person or losse to the place.”*

* The above passage alludes to the alienation, by Bishop Caldwell, of Salisbury, of the castle, park, and manor of Sherborne, in Dorsetshire, to Sir Walter Raleigh.

x “Worthies,” vol. ii. p. 12.—Soon after his attaining this Diocese, Bishop Still, who was then a widower, gave considerable offence to Queen Elizabeth, by his second marriage. This was with Jane, the daughter of Sir John Horner Knt. of Cloford, in Somersetshire, who “drew with her a kynde of alliance with Judge Popham, that swayed all the temporall government of the countrie.” “As this connection,” Harington remarks, “was much more justifiable,” than that of Bishop Godwin, “so the Queene’s displeasure (the times being somewhat more propitious and favourable to Bishoppricks since Bishop Wickham’s sermon) was the easier pacified without so costly a sacrifice as a whole mannor ; and she contented her selfe only to breake a jeast upon the name of the Bishop’s wyfe, saying to Sir Henry Barkley, ‘it was a dangerous name for a Bishop to match with a *Horner*.’ Since which time he hath preached before her more than once, and hath received good testimonies of her good opinion ; and God hath also blest him many wayes

There is yet one circumstance relating to Bishop Still, to which it is necessary to advert; and particularly so, as it forms a rather important point in the History of the Drama. This Prelate has long been reputed to be the author of "*Gammer Gurton's Needle*," which, as Warton says, "is held to be the first Comedy in our language; that is, the first play which was neither Mystery nor Morality, and which handled a comic story with some disposition of plot, and some discrimination of character."—The earliest authority for attributing that piece to Bishop Still was Baker, the editor of the "*Biographia Dramatica*," who founded his opinion on the title-page, which states it to have been played "on the stage, not long ago, in Christ's College, in Cambridge," and "made by Mr. S. Master of Art." Hence, he not only inferred that it was written by a member of Christ's College, but that Still was the person; there being "no other Master of Arts at Christ's College"

very greatly, to see his children well brought up, well bestowed, and to have an unexpected renew out of the *entrails* of the earth, I mean the *lead mines* of Mendip, greater than his predecessor had above ground. So as this Bishop seems to be blest with Joseph's blessing, Gen. c. 49, v. 25. *With blessings from heaven above, blessings from the deepe that lyeth beneath, blessings of the breasts and of the wombe.*"

Bishop Warburton, in the fourth volume of his works, p. 438, relates the following singular anecdote of Bishop Still, which he says he had from the learned Casaubon.

"This day the Lord Bishop of Ely (Andrews) a Prelate of great piety and holinesse, related to me a wonderful thing. He said he had received the account from many hands, but chiefly from the *Lord Bishop of Wells* (Still) lately dead. That in the city of Wells about fifteen years ago [1596], one summer's day, while the people were at divine service in the Cathedral Church, they heard, as it thundered, two or three claps above measure dreadful, so that the whole congregation, affected alike, threw themselves on their knees at this terrifying sound. It appeared the lightning fell at the same time, but without harm to any one. So far then there was nothing but what is common in the like cases. The wonderful part was this, which afterwards was taken notice of by many:—that the marks of a CROSS were found to have been imprinted on the bodies of those who were then at divine service in the Cathedral.

"The Bishop of Wells (Still) told my Lord of Ely, that his wife (a woman of uncommon probity) came to him, and informed him, as of a great *miracle*, that she had then the mark of a CROSS imprinted on her body: which tale, when the Bishop treated it as absurd, his wife exposed the part, and gave him ocular proof. He afterwards observed that he had upon himself, on his arm as (I take it) the plainest mark of a CROSS. Others had it on the shoulder, the breast, the back, and other parts. This account that great man, my Lord of Ely, gave me in such a manner as forbade even to doubt its truth."—*Ex adrer. Is. Casaubon. apud Marc. Casaubon, in tract. intit. "Of Credulity and Incredulity,"* p. 118.

than himself, whose name “began with the letter S,” in the year 1566; “when xxd,” as appears from ‘the Bursar’s Books,’ was paid for the carpenter’s setting up the scaffold for the plaie.”—This is all the evidence on the affirmative side; but, independently of the silence of Sir J. Harington, who was well acquainted with the Bishop, there is strong reason to doubt the fact of his having been the writer of the above piece. Warton, in the second volume of his “History of English Poetry,” p. 378, says that “Gammer Gurton’s Needle” was acted at Christ’s College “about the year 1552;” and in his third volume, p. 208, he acquaints us, on the authority of Oldys’s MSS. that it was “written and printed in 1551.” Now, assuming these dates to be correct, there is evidently a moral impossibility of its having been written by Still; for as the inscription on his monument fixes his decease in 1607, at the age of sixty-four, he could not have been more than *eight* years old, and consequently no *Master of Arts*, when this Comedy was first made public.

James Montague, S.T.P. a lineal descendant of the Montacutes, Earls of Salisbury, and the son of Sir Edward Montague Knt. was the next Bishop of this See. This Prelate, who was elected on the 29th of March, 1608, and consecrated on the 17th of the following month, was born at Boughton, in Northamptonshire, the seat of his father. Having received his education at Christ’s College, Cambridge, he was appointed, in 1598, the first master of Sidney-Sussex College, in that university, by the executors of Lady Anne Sidney, the noble foundress. Whilst in that situation he greatly exerted himself to improve the buildings of his College,^y and to employ the quaint phraseology of Fuller, he became its “*nursing-father*, for he found it in *bonds* to pay twenty marks per annum to Trinity College, for the ground whereon it was built, and left it *free*, assigning it a rent for the discharge

^y Godwin, speaking of this College and of the Bishop, says—“in cujus structurâ multum ab eo laboris ac sollicitudinis susceptum est, quodque plurimum et auxit et ornavit.”—“De Præsulibus,” p. 390, edit. 1743.

thereof.”^a His talents and learning proved the means of his obtaining various promotions. Being held in much favour by James the First, that monarch, “who did *ken a man of merit* as well as any Prince in Christendome”^a made him Dean of Worcester, in December 1604; and in 1608 advanced him to this Diocese. On his primary visitation at Bath, his attention was particularly directed by Sir John Harington to the ruinous state of the Abbey Church in that city, which had been subjected to almost every kind of devastation from the times of Bishop King and Prior Birde. Influenced by a generous disposition, he immediately contributed one thousand pounds towards the due completion of the building; and under his auspices it was eventually finished, about the time at which he was translated to the See of Winchester, viz. Oct. the 4th, 1616. Prior to his removal he had also expended considerable sums in repairing the episcopal palaces of Wells and Banwell; and particularly in renovating the palatial Chapel at Wells, which had been erected by Bishop Joceline. He died at Winchester, on the 2nd of July, 1618; and, agreeably to his own desire, was interred in Bath Abbey Church, where his memory is preserved by a costly monument erected at the expense of his four brothers.^b Bishop Montague is known to the literary world as the translator of the Works of King James the First into Latin; a copy of which, published in 1616, and splendidly bound in velvet and gold, having the royal arms embossed on the cover, was given to the University of Cambridge by the King himself, and is still preserved in the Public Library there.

Montague's successor was that exemplary divine *Arthur Lake*, S.T.P. who was born in the year 1567, in St. Michael's parish, Southampton. He was the son of Almeric Lake, or Du Lake, and brother of Sir Thomas Lake, principal Secretary of State to King James the First. Having been taught the rudiments of learning

^a “Worthies,” vol. ii. p. 164.

^a Ibid.

^b For the Inscriptions on his monument, and other particulars relating to his works at Bath, see the “History and Antiquities of Bath Abbey Church.”

at the free school in his native town, he was removed to Wykeham's College, at Winchester; whence he was elected probationary fellow of New College, Oxford; and two years afterwards, in 1589, he was made a perpetual fellow of the same college. About 1594, he proceeded in arts, and entered into holy orders: in 1600, he became fellow of Wykeham's College; and in 1603 was appointed Master of the Hospital of St. Cross, near Winchester. In 1605 he took his degrees in divinity, and in the same year was installed Archdeacon of Surrey. In April, 1608, he succeeded Bishop Montague as Dean of Worcester; and on the 17th of June, 1613, he was preferred to the wardenship of New College, "by the conspiring votes of a numerous society, even before he thought of it."^c On October the 17th, 1616, being then Vice Chancellor of the University of Oxford, he was elected Bishop of this See, and was consecrated on the 8th of the following December. "In all these places of honour and employment," says Wood, "he carried himself the same in mind and person, shewing by his constancy that his virtues were virtues indeed; in all kinds of which, whether natural, moral, theological, personal, or pastoral, he was eminent, and indeed one of the examples of his time. He always lived a single man, exemplary in his life and conversation, and very hospitable. He was also well read in the fathers and schoolmen, and had such a command of the Scripture, which made him one of the best preachers, that few went beyond him in his time."^d This high character of Bishop Lake is confirmed by Walton, who particularly extols him for his humility, charity, and all other Christian excellencies. Dying on the 4th of May, 1626, he was interred in the north aisle of the choir in this Cathedral; where a plain stone, merely inscribed with his name, quality, and date of his decease, was soon afterwards laid over his grave.

^c See a "Short Review of the Life of Bishop Lake," by the Rev. Dr. J. Harris, attached to the folio volume of the Bishop's "Sermons," &c. published in 1629. Another volume of "Ten Sermons, preached at St. Paul's Cross and elsewhere," by this Prelate, was published in quarto, in 1641.

^d "Athenæ Oxonienses," vol. ii. col. 399. Fuller says that Bishop Lake "lived a pattern of piety," and "a real comment upon Saint Paul's character of a Bishop,"—"Worthies," vol. i. p. 407.

The next Bishop was the celebrated *William Laud*, D.D. who was translated from St. David's, which See he had held *in commendam* with the Deanery of Gloucester. This prelate, whose arbitrary principles and unconciliatory disposition had such a great influence in widening the breach between Charles the First and the parliament, was born at Reading, in Berkshire, on the 7th of October, 1573. He was the son of a clothier;* and having been educated at the grammar school in his native town, he became a student of St. John's, Oxford, of which College he was elected a fellow about three years afterwards. His talents were of the first order, and his acquirements proportionate; but his pertinacity of temper began early to display itself, and he was generally regarded as an assuming and arrogant young man. In 1601 he entered into holy orders, and shortly after excited the displeasure of Dr. Abbot, the Vice Chancellor, by his opposition to the tenets of the Puritans, which about that period began to have many supporters in the University. In 1607 he was preferred to the living of St. Martin's Stamford, in Northamptonshire; and in the following year he obtained the advowson of North Kilworth, in Leicestershire. He was no sooner invested with these livings than he had the parsonage houses repaired, and gave a regular allowance to twelve poor persons; and he is said to have pursued a similar line of conduct in all his subsequent preferments. In August, 1608, being then a Doctor in Divinity, he was appointed Chaplain to Dr. Richard Neile, Bishop of Rochester, who much patronized him, and by whose influence he was admitted to preach before King James at Theobald's, on the 17th of September, 1609; and

* Bishop Kennet gives the following "libel" upon Laud from the "*Scots Scouts Discoveries*," Lond. 1642:—"His father was a clothier, his mother a spinster; he was from his cradle ordained to be a punisher of poor people, for he was born between the stocks and the cage, which a courtier one day chanced to speak of, whereupon his grace removed from thence, and pulled down his father's thatched house, and built a fair one in the place." Fuller says that Laud was of "honest parentage;" and Wood states that he was "the son of a father of both his names, by Lucie his wife, the widow of John Robinson." The house which he is said to have built on the site of his father's cottage was in Broad Street, Reading; it was pulled down in the year 1811. One of the chambers retaining the name of Laud's *Study*.

in 1617 he accompanied that monarch into Scotland, on his ill timed expedition for the purpose of uniting the two Kingdoms into one religious community. After various intermediate promotions, he was elected to this Diocese on the 16th of August, 1626, and having been consecrated on the 19th of September, his temporalities were restored on the following day. In October he was made Dean of the Chapel Royal; and on April the 29th, 1627, a Privy Counsellor. In the same year the King promised him the Bishopric of London, and he was translated to that See on the 16th of July, 1628. In the December following, the *Statutes* "which he had drawn for the reducing of the factious and tumultuous elections of the Proctors, in Oxon, to several Colleges by course, and so to continue, was passed in a convocation of Masters and Doctors there, no voice dissenting."^f Speaking of the proceedings of Laud about this period, "Judge Whitlock, his ancient acquaintance," was accustomed to say, with almost prophetic judgment, that "he was too full of fire, though a good and just man; and that his want of experience in state matters, and his too much zeal for the Church, and heat, if he proceeded in the way he was then in, would set this nation on fire."^g On the 12th of April, 1630, Bishop Laud was elected to the Chancellorship of Oxford; and besides founding an Arabic lecture, he presented the University with a large collection of coins and manuscripts. In August, 1633, he was translated from London to the See of Canterbury; and he was no sooner in possession of the archiepiscopal chair than he commenced his strenuous but impolitic and disastrous attempt at establishing an uniformity in religious worship. On the breaking out of the disturbances which preceded the Civil war, his palace at Lambeth was assaulted by the London apprentices; but he himself escaped their fury by retiring to Whitehall. In 1640, he was impeached of high treason, and committed to the Tower,

^f "Athenæ Oxonienses," vol. iii. col. 124.

^g "Memorials of English Affairs," p. 32.

where he was imprisoned upwards of three years. His enemies then brought him to public trial; but finding that the Lords were unwilling to pronounce him guilty, they proceeded against him by a bill of attainder, and he was, in consequence, beheaded on Tower Hill, January the 10th, 1644. He was then in the seventy-first year of his age; and the firm and dignified composure with which he resigned himself to his fate evinced a perfect consciousness in the rectitude of his own principles, however they had been arbitrarily exercised, or however contrary they really were to the true interests of mankind.^h His remains were interred in the Church of Allhallows, Barking, Essex; but after the Restoration they were removed to the Chapel of St. John's College, Oxford.

Leonard Mawe, S. T. P. a native of Rendlesham, in Suffolk, who had been educated in Peter House College, Cambridge, of which he was elected fellow in July, 1598, and Master in November, 1617, was the next Bishop of this See. He was a Prebendary of Wells, and had been Chaplain to Prince Charles, whom he accompanied into Spain, on his ill advised and romantic visit to the Infanta. In June, 1625, he was chosen Master of Trinity College, Cambridge; "whereby," saith Fuller, "he deserved well, shewing what might be done in five years by good husbandry, to disengage that foundation from a great debt."ⁱ He was elected to this Diocese on July the 24th, 1628, and consecrated on the 7th of September following, at Croydon. Death bereaved him of his new honours within twelve months, September the 3rd, 1629; and he was buried at Chiswick, where he expired. "He had the reputation of a good scholar, a grave preacher, a mild man, and one of gentil deportment."^j

Walter Curle, or *Curll*, D. D. the next Bishop, was a native of Hatfield, in Hertfordshire and probably the son of William Curll, Esq. Auditor of the Court of

^h For a summary view of the character of Archbishop Laud, see the "History," &c. "of the Metropolitcal Church of Canterbury," pp. 89, 90.

ⁱ "Worthies," vol. ii. p. 333.

^j Ibid.

Wards to Queen Elizabeth, who has a monument in Hatfield Church. He was admitted a student at Peter House, Cambridge, in 1592; he afterwards travelled four years, and in 1602 entered into holy orders; about the same time he was elected fellow of his College. In 1606 he proceeded B. D. and in 1612, Doctor of Divinity. Being patronized by the Cecils, he was promoted in the Church, and became Chaplain to James the First, who advanced him to the deanery of Lichfield in June 1621. He was made Bishop of Rochester in September, 1628, and in the following year was translated to this See; being elected on the 29th of September, and confirmed on December the fourth, 1629. Three years afterwards he was translated to Winchester, and he was also appointed Lord Almoner to King Charles the First. He afterwards suffered considerably in the King's cause, and was among the royalists who were besieged at Winchester; on the surrender of which city he retired to Soberton, in Hampshire, where he lies buried. Wood states, that his decease happened either in the spring or summer time of 1647; but Dr. Richardson, in his additions to Godwin, says about 1650. He also affirms that the Bishop was not only deprived of his episcopal revenues, but also of his patrimonial inheritance.^k

On the translation of Curle to Winchester, *William Piers*, or *Pierce*, D. D. was raised to this See. Wood states that he was born in August, 1580, in the parish of All Saints, Oxford, being the son of William Piers, "a haberdasher of hats, nephew or near of kin to Archbishop Piers, who was a native of South Hinxsey, in Berkshire."^l At the age of sixteen young Piers became student of Christ Church, and having proceeded in Divinity, he was in 1618, made Canon of that College. "In 1621, 22, 23, he did undergo the office of Vice Chancellor of Oxford, wherein behaving himself very forward and too officious against such that were then called *Anti-arminians*, he gained the good will of Dr. Laud, then

^k "De Præsulibus," p. 242, edit. 1743.

^l "Athenæ Oxonienses," vol. iv. coll. 839.

a rising star in the Court, and so, consequently, preferment."^m On the 9th of June, 1622, he was installed Dean of Peterborough; and he was enthroned Bishop of that See on the 14th of November, 1630. In November, 1632, he was elected to this Diocese, and being confirmed on December the 13th, had his temporalities restored on the 20th of the same month. On the abolition of episcopacy by the Parliament, he was deprived and committed, with other Bishops, to the Tower. After his release he retired to Cuddesden, near Oxford, where he continued to reside on his own estate, and married a second wife. After the Restoration he returned to his See, "and by the great fines and renewings," says Wood, "that then came in, he was rewarded in some degree for his sufferings; but his said second wife, too young and cunning for him, got what she could from the children he had by his first wife, and wheedling him to Walthamstow, in Essex, got thousands of pounds and his plate from him, (as the common report at Wells is), which of right should have gone to his said children."ⁿ He died and was buried in April, 1670, in his seventy-first year, at Walthamstow, where a monument was erected for him in the chancel of the parish Church.

^m "Athenæ Oxonienses," vol. iv. col. 839.

ⁿ Ibid. "As for his actions," says Wood, "done in his Diocese of Bath and Wells before the grand rebellion broke out, which were very offensive to the puritanical party (who often protested that he brought innovations therein, and into his church, suppressed preaching, lectures, and persecuted such who refused to rail in the Lordes table, &c. in his diocess), let one of them, named William Prynne, speak; yet the reader may be pleased to suspend his judgment, and not to believe all which that partial, crop-eared, and stigmatized person sayeth."—He then contradicts a passage in Prynne's "Canterbury's Doom," relating to Bishop Piers's application to a certain knight of his acquaintance at Westminster, "intreating his favour to procure any lect. or curate's place for him, though never so mean, to keep him from starving. Whereupon the knight minded him of his former speeches and cruelty towards other lecturers and ministers, whom (as he added) he reduced to extreme poverty, wishing him to take special notice how God had justly requited him in his own kind;" &c.

In a petition (quoted by Bliss, *ibid.* col. 841, from Bishop Kennet) from Dr. Bastwick, Mr. Burton, and Mr. Prynne, to Charles I. complaining of the many innovations of the clergy, they say that Bishop Piers "within three years last past hath most unjustly, several times, one after another, excommunicated the churchwardens of the parish of Beckinton, within the county of Somerset, and Diocese of Bath and Wells, for refusing to remove the communion table in the parish church there, from the place where it

Robert Creyghton, or Crichton, S. T. P. who was born in the northern part of Scotland, and by his mother's side collaterally related to the Stuarts, succeeded Bishop Piers. He was educated at Westminster School, and elected thence to Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1613, where he proceeded M. A. in 1628, in which year he was appointed both Public Orator and Greek Professor of that University. During the short vacancy of this See, in 1632, on the translation of Curll to Winchester, he was appointed Treasurer of Wells by Archbishop Abbot. In 1637 he was advanced to the Deanery of St. Burian's, in Cornwall; but he was bereaved of his preferments on the eve of the Civil war, during which, according to Wood, he suffered very much for the royal cause, and retiring with his Majesty to Oxford, became one of his Chaplains.^o He was afterwards an exile with Charles the Second, before whom, "being Chaplain at the Hague, he preached very liberally against the Presbyterians and the murderers of King Charles I." ^p In 1646 he had a grant, or promise, of the Deanery of Wells, and on the Restoration, in 1660, he obtained possession. About ten years afterwards he was elected to this See, viz on the 25th of May, 1670; and he was consecrated, at Lambeth, on the 19th of the following month. He died on the 21st of November, 1672, being then in his seventy-ninth year, and he was buried in this Cathedral. Whilst residing at the Hague he published a Latin translation, from the Greek, of Sylvester Suguropolis's "History of the Council of Florence."

Peter Mews, LL. D. the successor of Creyghton, was a native of Dorsetshire, probably of Purse Caundell, the residence of his father. Having been taught the rudi-

ciently stood, decently rayled in with wainscot, to rayle it altar-wise against the east end of the chancel; and likewise threatened to excommunicate the churchwardens of the parish of Batcombe, in the said county, for not blotting out of their church wall, upon his commande, this sacred Scripture thereon written:—'Isaiah lviii. 13, 14. *If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath,*' &c. calling it, most blasphemously, 'a Jewish place [[?] piece] of Scripture, and not fit to be suffered in the church;' and upon their refusal to obliterate it, he sent his chaplain, with a plaisterer, to see it wiped out, who executed this his command."

^o "Athenæ Oxonienses," vol. ii. Fasti, col. 444.

^p Ibid.

ments of language at Merchant Taylor's School, in London; he was elected thence at the age of eighteen, in 1637, to St. John's College, Oxford, of which he, eventually, became Fellow and President. In 1641, he was elected B. A., and in the following year, on the breaking out of the Civil war, he took up arms for the royal cause. He proceeded in Arts in 1645, but was ejected from the University by the Parliamentary Visitors in 1648; after which he joined the royalists in Scotland. When the king's affairs became desperate he went abroad, and "did undergo many troubles and dangers."^q After the Restoration, viz. in July, 1660, he was made Archdeacon of Huntingdon, and in December following created Doctor of Laws; about the same time he was appointed one of the King's Chaplains. Besides several intermediate promotions, he had the "golden Prebendship," as Wood calls it of St. David's bestowed upon him in 1667; and in 1669, 1670, (in which year he was advanced to the Deanery of Rochester), and 1671, he filled, "with great credit to himself," the office of Vice Chancellor of Oxford. In December, 1672, he was elected to this See, and he was consecrated, at Lambeth, on the following Shrove Sunday, February the 9th, 1672-3. During the twelve years of his episcopacy here "he was much beloved and admired for his hospitality, generosity, justice, and frequent preaching."^r On the 22d of November, 1684, he was translated to Winchester; and in June, 1685 although sixty-four years of age, he "appeared in actual service for his Majesty King James II. against the rebels, conducted by James, Duke of Monmouth; which being very signal, his Majesty was graciously pleased to reward him with a rich medal."^s On the abdication, however, of his bigoted master, this Prelate took the oaths to King William, and thus retained his Bishopric till his decease,

^q "Athenæ Oxonienses," vol. iv. col. 888. ^r Ibid, col. 889.

^s Ibid. Bishop Mews is said to have commanded the artillery in the battle of Sedgmoor, which proved so disastrous to the Duke of Monmouth and his ill-fated partisans. His portrait is preserved in the Council Chamber, Wells.

on the 9th of November, 1706: he was interred in Winchester Cathedral.

The next Bishop was *Thomas Ken* or *Kenn*, D. D. the son of a London attorney, who was descended from a collateral branch of an ancient family of that name, which had been seated for several centuries at Kenn Place, in Somersetshire. He was born at Little Berkhamstead, in Hertfordshire, in July, 1637, and received his early education at Wykeham's school at Winchester. Thence removing to New College, Oxford, he became Probationary Fellow on that foundation in 1657. In 1661 he proceeded B. A. and in 1666, being then M. A., was chosen Fellow of Winchester College. In 1674, he travelled to Rome, in company with his nephew, Isaac Walton the younger, (afterwards Chaplain to Bishop Seth Ward), and after his return proceeded in divinity, becoming B. D. in 1678, and D. D. in the following year. Soon afterwards he was appointed Chaplain to Mary, Princess of Orange, whom he accompanied to Holland; but having lost the favour of her consort by insisting on the marriage of one of his officers with a young lady of the Princess's train, whom he had seduced under that promise, he returned to England. He was subsequently appointed to accompany Lord Dartmouth to Tangier, in the quality of Chaplain; and on his return, in April, 1684, was immediately made Chaplain to his Majesty, Charles the Second, by an order of the King himself. In the November following he was nominated to this Bishopric, and he was consecrated, at Lambeth, on the 25th of January, 1684-5; but the King's illness intervening, he did not receive his temporalities till after the accession of James the Second. Previously to Charles's decease, Bishop Kenn constantly attended him, and did his utmost to "awaken his conscience;" speaking, as Bishop Burnet states, "with great elevation of thought and expression, and like a man inspired." During James's reign, some attempts were made to seduce him to the popish party, but fruitlessly; and he was one of the seven Bishops who were committed to the Tower for opposing the

public reading of the King's celebrated Declaration of Indulgence, in June, 1688. Though thus averse, however, to papistical ascendancy, he could not be induced to take the new oaths of allegiance to King William, and was, in consequence deprived of his Bishopric on the 1st of February, 1690-91. He afterwards retired to Longleat, in Wiltshire, the seat of his friend and patron, Lord Viscount Weymouth, where he died on the 19th of March, 1710-11. It is said that he had for many years, when travelling, carried his shroud in his portmanteau; and that he put it on a few days before his decease, to prevent the stripping of his body. He was interred in the church at Frome, near Longleat. His works were published in four volumes, in 1721: they chiefly consist of Sermons and Devotional Pieces, in verse and prose. Notwithstanding the steady refusal of Bishop Kenn to take the required oaths, the Queen entertained so much respect for his character, that she granted him an annual pension of two hundred pounds.

On the deprivation of Bishop Kenn, King William nominated *Dr. William Beveridge*, afterwards Bishop of St. Asaph, to this See; but on his refusing to accept it, possibly from some conscientious scruple in regard to the late Bishop, the Queen, on the 13th of June, 1691, nominated *Richard Kidder*, S. T. P. Dean of Peterborough, who was accordingly consecrated on the 30th of August following, at the Church of St. Mary-le-Bow, in London. He was born, according to one account, at Bighthelmston, in Sussex; and to others, at East Grinstead, in the same county. In June, 1649, he was admitted sizar in Emanuel College, Cambridge, of which he became Fellow in 1655; and proceeded A. M. in the following year. After several intermediate preferments, (from one of which, Stanground, in Huntingdonshire, he was ejected for non-conformity, in 1662, under the St. Bartholomew Act), he was promoted to the Deanery of Peterborough, in October, 1689; on the 7th of which month he had taken his degree as D. D. In 1691, as mentioned above, he was advanced to this Diocese, which he continued to govern till his melancholy death;

he being killed in his bed, with his lady, in the episcopal Palace of Wells, by the fall of a stack of chimneys that was blown down by the wind, in the great storm which produced such extensive devastation in the night of the 26th and 27th of November, 1703. He was author of various works: the principal of which was a "Demonstration of the Messiah," printed first in three volumes, 8vo. and afterwards in folio; and a "Commentary on the Pentateuch," in two volumes, 8vo. In the brief notice which Todd has given of this Prelate, he says—"The world has been greatly benefited by his excellent writings."^t

George Hooper, D.D. a native of Grimley, in Worcestershire, succeeded Bishop Kidder. He was born November the 18th, 1640; and having been first admitted at St. Paul's School, was afterwards removed to Westminster, whence he was elected to Christ Church, Oxford. He distinguished himself in the University as a most accomplished scholar; "directing his studies with success not only to Philosophy, Mathematics, the Greek and Roman Antiquity, but to the more difficult attainments of Eastern Learning; in the pursuit of which he was assisted by that eminent Orientalist, Dr. Pocock."^u In 1672 he became Chaplain to Dr. Morley, Bishop of Winchester; and in the following year proceeded B.D.; shortly after which, Archbishop Sheldon, with the assent of the former Prelate, appointed him his Chaplain, and collated him to the rectory of Lambeth. In 1677 he took the degree of D.D. and in the same year was advanced to the Precentorship of Exeter; in which Cathedral he also became a Canon Residentiary. About 1680 he was appointed Chaplain to Charles the Second; and by the command of his successor, James, he attended, in 1685, the ill fated Duke of Monmouth both on the evening before his execution, and on the scaffold. After the glorious

^t Vide "Some Account of the Deans of Canterbury," p. 176; note k. A manuscript Memoir of Bishop Kidder, written by himself, is in the possession of some gentleman at Wells. 182.

^u Todd's "Account," p. 169.

Revolution, in 1688, he was appointed Chaplain to William and Mary; the latter, to whom he had been Almoner, when Princess of Orange, during some part of her residence in Holland, promoted him to the Deanery of Canterbury, in July, 1691, on the translation of Dr. Sharp to the Archbishopric of York. In February, 1700-1, he was chosen Prolocutor of the Lower House of Convocation, the independence of which he strongly defended during the famous dispute respecting the Rights of Convocation. In the same year he was offered, but refused to accept, the Primacy of Ireland. Queen Anne, although against his inclination, preferred him to the See of St. Asaph, in 1703; but in the following year he was translated to this Diocese, in which he was confirmed on the 14th of March, 1703-4. He presided here upwards of twenty-three years; but, having attained the great age of eighty-seven, he died at Barkley, in Somersetshire, on the 6th of September, 1727; and was buried in this Cathedral. Dr. Coney, who was Prebendary of Wells and Rector of Bath, has recorded a remark of the celebrated Dr. Busby, in his account of Bishop Hooper, annexed to an edition of his own Sermons, which he published in 1730, namely—“That he was the best scholar and the finest gentleman, and would make the completest Bishop that ever was educated at Westminster School.” He was greatly beloved by his clergy; and his biographer, Todd, who has successfully rescued his memory from the charges of craft, ambition, and rapaciousness, too hastily brought against him by Bishops Burnet, and Atterbury, affirms that, “His character will continue to command respect and reverence till the value of learning and religion is forgotten or despised.” His works, which exhibit “splendid proofs” of his extensive erudition, were collected and published at Oxford, in 1757, in one volume, folio.

John Wynne, S.T.P. who had been created Bishop of St. Asaph in 1714, was translated to this See on the demise of Bishop Hooper, in 1727. He was much respected for his virtues; and, after governing his Diocese for sixteen years, died at Soughton (his patrimonial seat),

in Flintshire, on the 15th of July, 1743, in the seventy-sixth year of his age. He was buried in the Church at Northop, or Llan Eurgain, in the above county.

Edward Willes, S.T.P. the brother of Lord Chief Justice Willes, was translated to this See in September, 1743, from St. David's; to which he had been advanced, in the preceding year, from the Deanery of Lincoln. He held the office of Joint Decypherer to the King, with his son Edward Willes, Esq. He died at his residence, in Hill Street, Berkeley Square, London, on the 24th of November, 1773, in his eightieth year; and was interred in South Audley Street Chapel.

Charles Moss, S.T.P. and F.R.S. was next, like his predecessor Willes, translated from St. David's to this See. He was of a Norfolk family, and nephew of Dr. Robert Moss, Dean of Ely, who, dying in March, 1729, bequeathed him the bulk of his fortune; at which time he was a student of Caius College, Cambridge, and was afterwards elected a fellow there. He took the degree of B.A. in 1731; proceeded M.A. in 1735, and S.T.P. in 1747. His preferments were numerous: he became Archdeacon of Colchester, in 1750, Prebendary of Salisbury, and Rector of St. James's, London. In 1759 he was instituted Rector of St. George's, Hanover Square; and from that year till 1762, he preached the Boyle's Lecture. He was consecrated Bishop of St. David's, at Lambeth, on the 30th of April, 1766; and translated in the beginning of the year 1774 to this See, which he continued to govern till his decease, April the 13th, 1802, in the ninety-second year of his age. He was the oldest spiritual peer in the House of Lords, having sat on the bench of Bishops nearly thirty-six years. From his general urbanity, and the simplicity of his manners, he was much esteemed throughout his Diocese; and his piety and learning secured to him the veneration of the Christian and the scholar. He had amassed a private fortune amounting to one hundred and forty thousand pounds; of which he bequeathed twenty thousand pounds to his only daughter, the wife of Dr. King, afterwards Bishop of Oxford;

and the residue, independently of a few charitable legacies, to his son Dr. Moss, who preceded Dr. King in the See just named. Bishop Moss was the author of a few Sermons; and also of the "Sequel of the Trial of the Witnesses;" in answer to Chubb's tract on the Resurrection, in reply to Bishop Sherlock's "Tryal of Witnesses," which had been written in refutation of Woolston, in 1729. The *Sequel* was first published under the title of "The Evidence of the Resurrection, cleared," &c. in 1744; at which time Dr. Moss was Sherlock's Chaplain. He was buried in South Audley Street Chapel, in London.*

Richard Beadon, D.D. and F.S.A. was translated from Gloucester to this See on the decease of Bishop Moss. He was born in the year 1737; and, having received his early education at the grammar school in Tiverton, was removed thence to St. John's College, Cambridge; of which he became a fellow, having previously taken the degree of B.A. in 1758, and M.A. in 1761. He was also, in 1768, appointed Orator of his University. In 1769 he proceeded B.D.; and in 1775 was advanced to the Archdeaconry of London. In 1780 he became Doctor in Divinity; and in the following year was elected Master of Jesus College. The late Duke of Gloucester was entrusted to Dr. Beadon's peculiar care at Cambridge; and his judicious conduct, whilst tutor to that Prince, "secured the royal favour, and paved the way to his subsequent high eminence in the Church." In 1789 he was promoted to the See of Gloucester, which he continued to govern till his translation to Bath and Wells, in 1802. He died at Bath, on the 21st of April, 1824; and was buried in this Cathedral on the 30th of the same month.

Dr. Beadon, was succeeded by *George Henry Law*, LL.D. the thirteenth and youngest son of Edmund Law, Bishop of Carlisle; and born at Peter-house

* It is remarkable that in three different accounts, now before me, of the death of this Prelate, the place of his decease is stated differently; one fixing it in Great George Street, Westminster; another in Grosvenor Square; and the third in Grosvenor Place.

Lodge in Cambridge (of which college his father was then master) Sept. 12, 1761. He received the rudiments of his education at the school of the Rev. John King, at Ipswich, and thence was removed to the Charter-house, and placed under Dr. Berdmore. In the year 1777, he was admitted of Queen's College, Cambridge, being a private pupil of the Rev. Isaac Milner, afterwards President of that College, and Dean of Carlisle. His degree of B.A. in 1781 was associated with the honours of second wrangler and first medallist. He was for three years a fellow of Queen's College. In 1784 he proceeded to the degree of M. A. ; and on the 13th of July in the same year, he married Jane, eldest daughter of General Adeane, M.P. for the county of Cambridge, when he quitted the university.

In 1785 Mr. Law was collated by his father to a prebend in the Cathedral church of Carlisle, and afterwards, but a few days before his death, was presented by him to the vicarage of Torpenhow, in the county of Cumberland.

In 1791 Mr. Law was promoted by the Hon. and Right Reverend James Yorke, Bishop of Ely, to the rectory of Kelshall, Herts, where he resided for eleven years, and was afterwards presented by the same patron to the rectory of Willingham, in Cambridgeshire ; upon which occasion he took the degree of D. D., and published the sermon which he preached at St. Mary's, on the Commencement. But a more exalted station in the church awaited him : and in the year 1812, entirely unlooked for, and unsolicited by himself, the bishopric of Chester was offered to him (most probably through the influence of the late Lord Ellenborough, his brother, then Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench) by the late Earl of Liverpool, the then premier. His Lordship presided at Chester for twelve years, when he was translated to the See of Bath and Wells in 1824 ; on which occasion the clergy of his extensive diocese presented to him an address declaratory of the high esteem in which he was held by them.* Among the works of

* See Cassan's *Lives of the Bishops of Bath and Wells*.

his Lordship's episcopate at Chester may be mentioned the foundation of the College of St. Bee's, in Cumberland, and the restoration of Chester Cathedral.

Bishop Law entered upon his high office determined to discharge its various duties with zeal and assiduity, and was ever ready, both by his influence and purse, to assist every thing which had for its object the promoting of true Christian knowledge and practice ; the amelioration of the condition of the labouring poor, and the education of their offspring.

In 1825 his Lordship held his Primary Visitation, and in the course of that and the following year, personally visited nearly every church in the Diocese, urging and encouraging by precept and pecuniary assistance the renovation, rebuilding, and enlarging of these sacred fabrics, many of which he found much dilapidated, and he lived to see an immense addition to church accommodation in his Diocese. The non-residence of his clergy received also his immediate and prompt attention, and it became the constant business of his life to correct this evil, and to extend by additional services and the more frequent celebration of the Eucharist the spiritual advantages of our holy church.

His Lordship introduced, on a large scale, the system of *Cottage gardening*, and apportioned about one hundred acres of his demesne into small lots, from a quarter to half an acre to each individual, which he let to the poor, at the same rent as to a farmer, for the cultivation of potatoes and vegetables. This benevolent plan has proved highly advantageous to the poor, enabling them to obtain these essential means of subsistence at a cheap rate ; and has, it is to be hoped, infused a spirit of laudable independence, and habits of industry, into this class of society, which unfortunately are too much lost sight of by them. This system has now become general, and the "Labourers' Friend Society," established in this extensive Diocese, affords it a great stimulus.

His Lordship regularly attended his parliamentary duties, and frequently took a part in the important discussions which arose relating to the Church ; and on

the reading of what is called the "Catholic Emancipation Bill," he made that Protestant declaration in the House of Lords, on the 2d of March 1829, which is recorded on their journals, and concluded with these emphatic words:—"As to myself, I have no other object in view, but to do my duty towards God and man; and I would rather go, as my great predecessor, Bishop Ken, did, to the Tower, than agree to sacrifice one tittle of our protestant constitution in Church and State. I cannot, therefore, consistently with the oath I have taken at that table, acquiesce in the proposed measure, and as I keep that oath, so help me God."

The following protest he caused also to be entered on the Journals of the House of Lords:—

"Dissentient. 1st. Because, though a full and complete religious toleration be the inalienable right of every individual in the state, yet still political power cannot justly be demanded by any dissenting sect, whenever the concession of that power appears to be inconsistent with the security and welfare of the community at large. 2d. Because, since the period of the Reformation, the Roman Catholic Church ever has been, and is determinately hostile to the cause of Protestantism, and to the principles of liberty, civil and religious. The members, therefore, of that body are inadmissible to be legislators of a Protestant country. 3d. Because many of the tenets of the Roman Catholic Church are directly opposed to the doctrines of Christianity as propagated in the revealed Word of God.

"Because, for these, and other reasons, as a Bishop of our pure and esteemed church, I feel myself called upon to enter this my protest against the Bill for admitting Roman Catholics into the higher offices of the state, and into the two Houses of Parliament.

(Signed) G. H. BATH AND WELLS."

His Lordship's literary character is best shewn by the Charges and Sermons which he published, and in various Tracts on subjects relating to the church, education of the poor, and for improving their condition. He also published a new edition of the "Theory

of Religion," by his father, Edmund Law, Lord Bishop of Carlisle; with a Life of the Author, by Dr. Paley, prefixed, 8vo, London, 1820.

The great improvements made by Bishop Law in the palace, and the restoration of many of its original parts, to be seen particularly in the windows of the dining-room and in the chapel, attest his judicious taste; and in the gardens are also numerous alterations and improvements, which have made even the ruins of the great hall subservient to produce picturesque effect. In a word, the palace is worthy of its dignified appellation.

His Lordship, having become attached to the situation of Banwell, near Weston-super-Mare, an extensive manor belonging to the See, purchased a portion of the hill in which "the celebrated cavern" is situate, where he built a large cottage ornée, and surrounded it with plantations, now in a thriving state. Here his Lordship frequently retired with a few friends to enjoy himself, free from the constant interruptions he must necessarily have experienced when resident at Wells; and where the pure air and unrestrained exercise on horseback over the adjoining hills gave a freshness to his constitution. The early and active habits of Bishop Law enabled him to officiate, to a late period of his life, at all public occasions relating to his office. He was present in his official character at the coronation of Queen Victoria, and though actively engaged in the ceremonials of that august and interesting ceremony, went through the fatigues of the day without injury to his health.

During his episcopacy the offices of the Diocesan Societies were first opened at Wells; and under the able superintendence of the Honorary Secretary the Rev. Prebendary Gunning, Vicar of Stowey, and the zealous Members of the various committees, these valuable Societies have in a few years effected an incalculable amount of good. By his munificence, and that of the Venerable Archdeacon Brymer, and F. H. Dickinson, Esq., M. P., that great blessing to the church the Theological College was established at Wells, and the Rev.

John Hothersall Pinder appointed as Principal, a man of great piety, learning, and zeal; to the great advantages of which Institution Bishop Law's successor, in his primary charge to the clergy, has borne ample testimony.*

During the latter years of this venerable Prelate his Son, the Rev. James Thomas Law, Chancellor of Lichfield, was appointed, by his Lordship, special commissary, and administered the affairs of the Diocese with great efficiency and the most liberal support of every thing which could tend to the advantage of the Church and Diocese; but the want of the episcopal functions of Ordination, Consecration, &c. called forth the act of 6 and 7 Victoria, cap. 62, when the Bishop of Salisbury was nominated to the fulfilment of those functions, and the Venerable Archdeacon Brymer administered the temporalities, and all such of the spiritualities as could be delegated to him, with great ability and zeal, most liberally declining the compensation afforded by the act, till the death of Bishop Law, which took place at Banwell, on the 22nd day of September, 1845, in the 85th year of his age. His Lordship's remains are interred in the family vault, in the Lady Chapel of Wells Cathedral, and a mural tablet has been since erected to his memory in the cloisters.

On the 12th of November, 1845, the honourable *Richard Bagot*, D D. Bishop of Oxford, was translated to the See of Bath and Wells. His Lordship is the third son of William, first Lord Bagot, of Blithfield, in the county of Stafford, and was born 22nd. of November, 1782. On the 21st. of December, 1806, his Lordship married the Lady Harriet Villiers, seventh daughter of George Bussey, fourth earl of Jersey, and in the same year was presented by his brother Lord Bagot, to the rectory of Leigh, Staffordshire. In 1807 he was preferred by his brother to the rectory of Blithfield, Staffordshire, he was also appointed prebendary of Worcester, and subsequently canon of Windsor by the crown, and in

* "Charge to the Clergy," Rivingtons, 1847.

1827 was consecrated Bishop of Oxford, and elected Dean of Canterbury. The great want of accommodation ever experienced at the episcopal palace has induced his Lordship to make considerable additions and alterations, which are still progressing under the direction of Mr. Ferrey, the eminent architect; and his Lordship's residence is therefore, hitherto, necessarily delayed.

CHAP. IV.

HISTORICAL NOTICES OF THE FABRIC ; ITS FOUNDATION, SUCCESSIVE ADDITIONS, ALTERATIONS, AND PRESENT CONDITION.

ALTHOUGH it is evident, from the information detailed in the preceding chapters, that the Cathedral establishment at Wells, both in the Saxon and the Norman times, must have been very considerable, and the buildings proportionably extensive, yet there is no part of the architecture of the present edifice which can be assigned to an earlier period than the twelfth century. Of the Collegiate Church, reputed to have been founded by King Ina, in 704, we know nothing ; nor yet of the Cathedral, immediately succeeding it (said to have been founded in Bishop Wlfelm's time), the earliest certain account of the erection of any buildings here being of those attributed to Bishop Giso, in the reign of the first Anglo-Norman King. "He thought good," says Bishop Godwin, on the authority of the Canon of Wells, "to augment the number of his Canons ; and, for their better entertainment, built them a cloyster, a hall, and a dorter, or place for their lodging."^a Those edifices were destroyed by the next Bishop, John de Villula, who raised a palace in their place ; but, having transferred the seat of his episcopacy to Bath, he suffered the Cathedral at Wells to go to ruin ; and it seems to have become still more deteriorated till after the composition made, in King Stephen's reign, between the

^a "Catalogue of English Bishops," p. 361.—"Auxit numerum Canonicorum in Ecclesiâ Wellensi; fecitque eis Claustum, Dormitorium et Refectarium, et unum de eis nomine Isaac fecit eis Præpositum."—"Anglia Sacra," pars i. p. 559.

two Chapters by Bishop ROBERT, who substantially repaired, or rather rebuilt, the falling fabric; and dedicated it anew in the presence of the Bishops of Sarum, Worcester, and Hereford.^b The present Church, however, has been stated to derive its origin from the munificence of Bishop JOCELINE DE WELLES, in the early part of the reign of King Henry the Third. That Prelate, indeed, whatever be the fact in this respect, may be regarded as fully deserving of the character given of him by the Canon of Wells; namely, "*Hic sibi similem anteriorem non habuit, nec huc usque visus est habere sequentem.*"^c

Godwin's words, in speaking of this Bishop, are remarkable. After mentioning his enlargement of the Cathedral establishment and revenues, by the founding of new prebends, annexation of manors, &c. he says—"Moreover, in building, hee bestowed inestimable sums of money. He built a stately chapel in his Pallace at Wels, and an other at Owky [Wokey], as also many other edifices in the same houses. And lastly, the Church of Welles itselfe, being now ready to fall to the ground, notwithstanding the great cost bestowed upon it by Bishop Robert, he pulled down the greatest part of it, to witte, al the West end, built it a new from the very foundation, and hallowed or dedicated it October 23, 1239."^d In his Latin work, this writer further says, that Joceline took down the greatest part of the Church from the presbytery westward, and rebuilt it on a more spacious and improved plan, with hewn stone curiously sculptured, so as to produce a very noble and admirable effect.^e

^b Vide Ante Chap. II p. 29.

^c "Ang. Sacr." pars i. p. 564.

^d Godwin's "Catalogue," p. 366.

^e "*Ecclesiam deinde ipsam Wellensem jamjam collapsuram (quamvis in ejus reparatione ingentes non ita pridem sumptus fecerat Robertus Episcopus) egregie refecit ac restituit, vel potius novam condidit. Nam partem multo maximam, quicquid nimirum presbyterio est ab Occidente, demolitus est, ut cum ampliore tum pulchriorem redderet, structura excitata ex polito lapide affabre in sculpto, augustissima et spectatu dedicavit Octobris vicesimo tertio, 1239.*"—"De Præsulibus," p. 371, edit. 1743. It should be remembered that Godwin's father was Bishop of this See from 1584 to 1590; and, consequently, that the son had an opportunity to obtain his information from the archives of the Cathedral.

At what time this Prelate commenced his work is uncertain; but most probably it was not till his return from exile,^f about the year 1213 or 1214; after which "he gave himself altogether to adorning and increasing the state of his Church."^g The whole of the building from the west end, except the upper parts of the western towers, to the middle of the present choir, is from its similarity of style and general architectural character, reputed to have been erected by this Prelate, who dying in November, 1242, "in medio Chori honorificè sepelitur."^h Between that time and the year 1264, the whole of the more eastern part, together with the Chapel of our Lady, was completed, or nearly so; as may be inferred both from the style of the workmanship and the incidental notice by the Canon of Wells, who states that Bishop Bitton, or Button, the first of that name, whose decease occurred on the 3d of April, 1264, was entombed, "*in novâ Capellâ B. Mariæ Virginis.*"ⁱ The *chapter house* appears to have been the next portion that was erected; for Godwin, in his English work, informs us that it was built by the contribution of well disposed people, in the time of Bishop William de Marchia,^j whose episcopacy began in January, 1293, and terminated in June, 1302; but it is remarkable that, in his "*De Præsulibus*," he has left the chapter house altogether unmentioned, in his account of the same Prelate. In 1325, on the 2d of the kalends of February, according to the Harleian MS. No. 6964 (which contains excerpts from the Registers of Wells), an indulgence of forty days was granted to those who contributed towards the *new work* (*ad novum opus*) of this Cathedral; yet we have no precise account of the work then in progress. The South-west tower, or, to speak more discriminatingly the upper part of it, from the height of the water-table, above the third row of statues, was built in the reign of Richard the Second, ante anno 1386, at the expense of Bishop John de Harewell and the Dean and Chapter

^f Vide Chapter II. p. 35.

^h "*Anglia Sacra*," pars. i. p. 564.

^j "*Catalogue*," p. 370.

^g Godwin's "*Catalogue*," p. 366.

ⁱ Ibid, pars. i. p. 566.

of Wells: that Prelate also gave one hundred marks towards glazing the great west window. The corresponding part of the North-west tower is supposed to have been principally erected at the expense of Bishop Bubwith, "which his armes, fixed vpon divers places of the same, do partly shew."^k The same Prelate according to Leland, "made the Est part of the Cloyster, with the little Chapel beneth, and the great Librarie over it, having 25 windowes on eche side."^l Godwin mentions his erection of the library over the cloister, but says nothing of his building the chapel. The West side of the cloisters was erected by that munificent Prelate, Beckington, together "with the volte and a goodly Schoole, with the Schole master Logging, and an Eschequer over it, having 25 wyndowes toward the area side."^m He also began the South side of the cloisters; "but one Thomas Henry, Treasurer of Welles and archdiacon of Cornewaull, made an ende of it *in hominum memoria*."ⁿ On the north the cloister green is bounded by the Church itself; and there is no other building on that side.

Having thus consecutively narrated all the historical evidence that can be obtained in regard to the foundation and progress of this truly magnificent building, it becomes necessary to enter into an examination of its principal constituent parts, in order to discover how far the style and character of the architecture agree with the dates and eras above specified.

Although the whole of this Cathedral is designed and built in the Pointed style of Architecture, yet it will readily be seen, that from the west end to the third column on each side of the choir, there is a regular and

^k Ibid. p. 374.—It is not a little curious that, in his "De Præsulibus," pp. 377, 379, Bishop Godwin has assigned the *south-west* tower, "*campanilis quod Occasum spectat æstivum*," to Bubwith; and the *north-west* tower, "*Occasum spectat hibernum*," to Harewell; although he has stated expressly the contrary in his English work. We have the additional authority, however, of the "*Anglia Sacra*," pars. i. p. 570, for referring the South-west tower to Bishop Harewell; and that the North-west tower was the work of Bubwith is testified by the insertion of his arms beneath a statue on the western face of the said tower. Those arms also correspond with another shield, within his Chantry Chapel, on the north side of the Nave.

^l "Itinerary," vol. iii. p. 105, edit. 1744.

^m Ibid.

ⁿ Ibid.

nearly symmetrical correspondency in the thickness of the walls and the forms of the buttresses; and that in both respects they partake far more of the massive solidity and heaviness of the Norman character, than we are accustomed to meet with in Churches constructed in the Pointed system. The buttresses, comparatively, are but of small projection; there are no arched buttresses; and the members and ornaments of the windows, which are of contracted dimensions, are much more simple than in any other of our Cathedrals, where the same style is prevalent. All the side windows, indeed, both of the nave and transept, except two windows in the latter, which have evidently been altered, consist only of two principal lights, separated by a single mullion; and the tracery is plain and simple. It is remarkable also that the great west window, as it is denominated, is in fact composed of three *distinct* lancet-shaped divisions, of considerable elevation, separated not by mullions, but by piers of masonry, which are nearly equal in breadth to the apertures themselves. There is, in fact, such great simplicity in all the more ancient parts of this fabric (which include the nave and transept, and the walls of the west part of the choir) that, had not the Canon of Wells so particularly mentioned the restoration of the Cathedral by Joceline de Welles, and Bishop Godwin so strongly corroborated his testimony by expressly stating that Joceline, after pulling down the old church from the presbytery westward, built it anew from the very foundations, there could be little hesitation in ascribing it to Bishop ROBERT, and assigning them to the reign of Henry the Second.

The north porch might still more decidedly be referred to the same period; for it possesses so many characteristics of Norman architecture, that there can be no doubt of its having been erected before the Pointed style had obtained its full ascendancy. The buttresses are flat and plain; and their pinnacles are almost devoid of ornament. The outward arch, though acutely pointed, exhibits amidst its deeply-recessed mouldings a two-fold series of zigzag or diagonal sculpture, intermixed with

Norman foliage ; and the capitals of its banded shafts partake, in their grotesque figures, and flowing leaves, of the same character. The panelled front of the surmounting gable also, which consists of six lancet-headed arcades of different heights, rising to the weatherings, bespeaks an early age ; and even the piercing (to admit light into the roof) of the lower part of the middle panels into three lancet-shaped apertures corresponds with other specimens of the date above assumed.

There is yet another circumstance in which this building assimilates with Norman architecture ; namely, in the ponderous solidity of its western towers, as compared with the limited extent of their interior areas. In this respect they differ greatly from those of a later age, constructed when the principles of resisting the outward thrust of internal arches by boldly projecting and flying buttresses became better understood. During whichever episcopacy, however, the earlier parts of this edifice were raised, it is evident that the design was formed at that very point of time when the Pointed style of Architecture was first attaining its supremacy over the massive compositions of the Norman builders. Though not entirely free from prior trammels, we trace in it the vigorous dawn of that superior lightness and elegance which shortly afterwards were carried to such high perfection in the eastern parts of the choir, in the lady chapel, in the chapter house, and in the superstructure of the central tower. The simplicity and plainness of the groining in the nave and transept furnish another character of remote age ; and the general style of sculpture in the ornamental parts is an additional evidence.

On entering the choir we immediately perceive a distinct change in the architectural characteristics and style of the building ; and the change becomes the more striking as we advance, the east end or altar part of the choir being the most florid in its design, and the most elegant in its enrichments. The windows are larger, and their tracery is more elaborate and diversified ; the arches are more expansive, the panelling and ornaments more complex, and the groining is more

intricate and adorned than in any part of the nave and transept. Proceeding more eastward the scene becomes still more decorated and elaborate; and the light and airy character of the lady chapel at once arrests our admiration, and demands our praise. Here the windows are still more capacious than those of the choir and its aisles; and the ramifications of the tracery more extended and beautiful than in any other division of the Cathedral.

If it be recollected that at the period when Bishop Joceline is stated to have *rebuilt* this edifice, the Bishops Richard Poore, and Robert de Bingham, were erecting the beautiful Cathedral of Salisbury, in the adjoining county of Wilts, and an inference be drawn from the comparative solid and substantial character of the work assigned to Joceline, compared with that of his contemporary Bishops, we shall find great reason to question the credibility of those accounts which refer the western parts of this edifice to him: for it is scarcely possible to believe that a munificent and affluent Prelate would have contented himself with raising so plain a structure, and one partaking so much of the massive heaviness of Norman architecture, in the immediate neighbourhood of a building wherein the light, airy, and elegant character of the Pointed style was so strikingly apparent and so completely developed. Could we suppose that Godwin, from some inadvertency, had mistaken the meaning of the record from which it is *presumed* his information was derived (for he has not referred to any), the difficulty would be partly solved; as, instead of assigning the nave and transept of the Cathedral to Bishop Joceline, we should regard him as the rebuilder of the *eastern* part of the choir, wherein he was interred, which possesses the characteristics of his time and era. On the contrary, the *western* part, as already shewn, approaches so nearly to the Norman style that we cannot, without departing from every principle of comparison and analogy, avoid ascribing it to Bishop Robert. By this conclusion, also, another difficulty is solved:—for if Joceline did not erect the eastern part, it may be inquired by whom then was it erected? And there are

no documents known to be extant which have any direct bearing upon the question. With respect to the *New works*, for which forty days indulgence were granted to contributors in Bishop Drovensford's time, we may rationally assume that they refer to the superstructure of the central tower, which displays the general characteristic decorations of Edward the Third's reign.

CHAP. V.

DESCRIPTION OF THE CHURCH,—ITS SITUATION AND ASPECT.

THERE is not, perhaps, a Cathedral in England more interesting to the artist and architectural antiquary than that of Wells. It abounds in fine and curious features, is connected with several ancient monastic edifices, and is surrounded by bold and even grand scenery. The design, construction, and execution of the Church itself are alike objects of study and admiration; and are worthy of the most careful examination by the professional architect. Seated in a valley, at the immediate source of a river formed by the confluence of several springs, with bold, rugged, wooded, and bare hills rising around, and thus apparently guarding its sacred precincts, it constitutes a fine artificial feature in the landscape, from different points, as the stranger approaches the city. From various stations on the roads to Frome, Shepton Mallet, Bath, Bristol, Cheddar, and Glastonbury, it presents different and diversified aspects and combinations; but all are highly picturesque, and consequently adapted to gratify the artist. In descending the hill from the east, on the road from Bath, its three towers, and numerous pinnacles, the chapter-house, and lady chapel, the Bishop's palace, and other buildings of Wells form a fine group in the centre, whilst steep wooded hills constitute the side screens; a lofty conical hill the middle distance; and Glastonbury Tor, with its connected ridges, terminate the prospect. To the west it presents a very different aspect and character: there its highly enriched façade, its surmounting towers, parts of the deanery in front, and the palace on the right,

with the parish tower of St. Cuthbert's rising high above the neighbouring houses, one hill finely robed with woods, and another presenting bare rocks on the summit for the back ground, are features and objects calculated to gratify every intelligent spectator, and to afford particular delight to the enthusiastic artist and antiquary.

To point out the different stations from which this venerable fabric may be seen advantageously, with its neighbouring scenery, distant stretches of country, and numerous combinations would occupy an extended essay, and be irrelevant to the nature of the present volume : but to be insensible of such picturesque beauties and advantages of situation and accompaniments would betray an apathy of heart, and a blindness of intellectual vision, degrading to a literary character, and incompatible with the name either of artist or amateur.

Gilpin, who viewed all objects in nature and art with an eye to the picturesque, in his "Observations on the Western Parts of England," says, "Our approach to Wells, from the *natural* and *incidental* beauties of the scene, was uncommonly picturesque. It was a hazy evening, and the sun declining low was hid behind a deep purple cloud, which covered half the hemisphere, but did not reach the western horizon : its lowest skirts were gilt with dazzling splendour, which spreading downwards, not in diverging rays, but in one uniform ruddy glow, and uniting at the bottom with the mistiness of the air, formed a rich yet modest tint ; with which Durcote Hill, projecting boldly on the left, the towers of Wells beyond it, and all the objects of the distance were tinged ; whilst the foreground, seen against so bright a piece of scenery, was overspread with the darkest shades of evening. The whole together invited the pencil without soliciting the imagination : but it was a transitory scene. As we stood gazing on it, the sun sunk below the cloud, and, being stripped of all its splendour by the haziness of the atmosphere, fell like a ball of fire into the horizon ; and the whole radiant vision faded away."

This Cathedral, though partly connected with houses and walls, and obscured by plantations in the gardens to the south and east, may be readily seen and examined from various stations. Its western façade, northern porch and transept, the chapter-house, and nearly the whole of the north side and part of the east end are open to public view. The south side of the nave and south-western tower are fully displayed to the cloister; but the southern part of the choir abuts on a private garden, and can only be seen from a distance. The eastern end and northern side of the choir are also in private gardens; but their chief features are beheld from the public road.

The *western façade* is open and unobscured. A large flat lawn, or cemetery, extends to a considerable distance westward, and returns round the northern flank to the eastern angle of the transept. From this point a building extends directly northwards to a series of dwellings called the Vicar's Close; and in consequence of a public road of approach to the city, passing between this College and the Cathedral, the architect has contrived a novel and very convenient communication from the one to the other by constructing an enclosed and glazed gallery, supported by three arches, and crossing the highway. A wall extends from this point eastward, and incloses the chapter-house and northern part of the choir, &c. within the area of the garden belonging to the Principal of the Theological College.

The *West Front* claims the first and principal attention and admiration of every class of visitors; for all must be impressed with its gorgeous display of sculpture, canopied niches, and varied ornaments. It seems to have been the intention of the architect to surpass by this all preceding works of the kind,—to have rendered this architectural title-page full of sculptural and allegoric information,—to have produced a sort of miracle in art, and thus to excite wonder and awful devotion. From its present mutilated and unfinished state some idea may be formed of its original splendour;

and it may be fairly concluded that the upper portions of the lateral towers were to have been finished in a corresponding style of decoration to the other parts of this façade.

In elevation the West Front may be described as consisting of three nearly equal portions; namely, two lateral towers and a central division: each of these includes two boldly projecting buttresses, with intermediate walls. Horizontally the elevation is divided into four distinct tiers or ranges; viz. the base, dado, and surbase all of plain ashler work, with bold string course mouldings: a central double doorway, with small lateral doorways opening respectively to the nave and aisles, are seen here, and must appear to every person who examines the building, to be very diminutive: they have been compared to rabbit holes in the side of a mountain. Above the surbase string-course is a continued series of duplicated niches, with pedestals and pedimental labels over double pointed arches. Nearly the whole of these niches are deprived of their respective effigies, or statues. Between every two pediments is a quartrefoil deeply sunk panel, occupied by a sculptured figure, or group of figures. Two windows of double lights to each, corresponding with the panels, are opened to the towers and to the north and south aisles. The next, or third tier from the base, presents a more enriched style of design in its niches, canopies, and sculpture than the lower part. The height of this division was probably regulated by the three central windows, which were designed to enlighten this end of the nave. These windows are separated by two piers nearly of equal width to the openings; and their faces, as well as the sides, are covered with sculpture, &c. The face of each buttress, as well as the returns or flanks of each, are profusely embellished with sculptured effigies standing or sitting on rich pedestals, and surmounted by canopies. A continued series of lancet-shaped blank arches, occupies the face between the buttresses; and the upper portions of nearly all of these arches are charged with sculptured scrolls, foliage,

&c. Above these arches is a series of niches continued along the whole of the front, and extending round each side of the towers. These are occupied by sculptured groups of human figures, represented in various positions of emerging from the tomb. Whatever may have been the object and motive of the architect, in this part of his design, he appears to have erred most completely in principle, by introducing a multiplicity of small and unpleasing parts at such a distance from the eye of the spectator, that their express meaning and execution cannot be discerned. It is evident, however, that they represent numerous naked human figures, rising in varied attitudes from the sepulchre, and we may thence conclude that the subject of the whole is the General Resurrection. A bold string-course separates the third from the fourth, or upper division of this elevation. The latter portion consists of three distinct parts, the centre gable and two lateral towers. In the first we perceive the same style of decoration in sculpture and niches, as in the lower portion of this front, and we may therefore conclude that it is part of the original design. Two handsome columnar pinnacles, with small columns attached, crown the lateral buttresses; and another, with niches, crockets, and finial, the centre. Beneath the latter is an elliptical niche, containing a broken statue, which was probably meant to represent the Deity: in another division below, is a series of twelve statues, all nearly perfect, and in a fine, broad, simple style of execution, most likely intended to represent the twelve apostles. The emblematic cross of St. Andrew sufficiently indicates that saint; but the others are not so clearly defined. A row of nine figures, with wings, and in various positions, occupy as many niches beneath, and were probably intended as symbolical of the Heavenly Hierarchy. The towers are so much alike that we should conclude they were erected at the same time, and by the same architect, if the history of them, as already detailed, was not so specific: the only variation being in the niches and statues attached to

the northern tower. An attempt to designate and describe all the statues and sculptured figures of this front would require a long dissertation, and would entail much conjectural reasoning. It must therefore suffice to remark, that the statues of the size of life, and larger, amount to one hundred and fifty-three in number; whilst the smaller figures may be calculated at double that amount. Mr. Carter, in his work on "Ancient Sculpture and Painting," has published slight etchings of the statues, by which their general forms, positions, and costumes may be understood; but they are too slight in drawing, and too roughly executed to satisfy the critical antiquary. Mr. Gough's "Attempt to explain these several Statues," published in the same work, states, the statues, "siding the great west door are chiefly Kings and Bishops who were benefactors to, or filled this See." The Sovereigns of Wessex, from Ina to Ethelbert, were eight in number; and we find seven kings and one queen (Sexburga) near the western entrance. The two other figures of queens may be, he continues, the two consorts of Ina, Ethelburga and Desburga. Twenty-one mitred figures, on the west face, he conjectures were meant to represent the successive Prelates of this See from Adelm to Joceline, and six others on the northern return, he thinks, were successors of Joceline; but as he includes Harewell's statue among the above, we cannot place much reliance on the conjecture. The former series represents kings, queens, knights in armour, and ecclesiastics; whilst the latter are mostly historical, typifying some event or personage of Holy Writ. As evidences in the history of art and illustrative of ancient costume these sculptures are peculiarly interesting, and would form a very curious subject for a distinct publication. Mr. Flaxman, in his Lectures delivered at the Royal Academy, has noticed them in terms of commendation. Mr. Cockerell, in a Letter published in the *Athenæum*, December, 6th, 1842, says:—"I pointed out to the dean and chapter an interpretation of the admirable and unexampled subjects of sculpture, with which that venerable cathedral is adorned—sculp-

ture, which is the blind wonder of all beholders, and which neither William of Worcester, Carter (himself a Roman Catholic, and who engraved them), Flaxman, Britton, nor any other commentator, has ever attempted: the very crude outline of which (as some compensation for my intrusion), I beg to offer to the consideration of your antiquarian readers.

“Upwards of 300 statues, in nine tiers, decorate the west and north fronts: in the first nearest the earth, in niches and under canopies, are the personages of the first and second Christian missions to this country: as St. Paul, Joseph of Arimathea, and St. Augustine and his followers. In the second tier, are the angels, chanting *gloria in excelsis*, and holding crowns spiritual and temporal, the reward of those predications. In the third tier, to the south, subjects of the Old Testament; to the north, of the New,—compositions of the highest merit and interest: two of them are cited by Flaxman as examples of pure and expressive art. In the fourth and fifth tiers is contained an historical series of the lords spiritual and temporal, saints and martyrs, under whom the church has flourished in this country: as King Ina, founder of the conventual Church, Edward the elder, founder of the Episcopal Church of Wells; the Saxon, Danish, Norman, Plantagenet dynasties, individually and most significantly represented: together with these are the founders of those dynasties, the remarkable daughters, and allies by marriage, of the royal families of England, with the leading characters and lords of the church; as Archbishops Brithelmus, St. Dunstan, Bishop Aster, Grimbold, the Earl of Mercia, surrounding Alfred, &c.; they form a complete illustration of William of Malmesbury, and the early historians of our country—“a calendar for unlearned men,” as well as for unlearned artists; for thus are many of them as beautiful as they are deeply interesting to Englishmen. In the sixth tier, there are ninety-two compositions of the Resurrection, startling in significance and pathos and expression, worthy of John of Pisa, or a greater man, John Flaxman. In the seventh tier are the angels sounding the

last trump, the four archangels conspicuous. In the eighth tier, are the apostles, of colossal dimensions and admirable sculpture. In the ninth tier, are the remains of the Saviour in judgment, with niches on either side, for the Virgin and St. John, as usual.

“This magnificent picture of the great doctrines of the Christian dispensation, and its peculiar relation to this country, hitherto sealed, was unravelled at no small expense of time and meditation, (since there are no inscriptions or records of any kind), and indeed of colds and catarrhs caught at *Kill-canon* corner, in the months of November and December. So that the warmth even of my “sympathetic acquaintance with the early architecture of our country,” need not be doubted by your weekly gossip.

“I cannot however help animadverting on the supineness of our Society of Antiquaries, on subjects of such paramount importance to our history and antiquities, and indeed of our commentators in general, upon this essential feature of architectural composition, which can only be accounted for by our Protestant abhorrence of images, and the holy fear of Popery. Until this subject, the sculpture of our ancient architecture, is studied, the true spirit and intention of that architecture will never be understood; it will then possibly be found, that the intercession of saints, and the pride of heraldry, are not in accordance with the spirit of a Protestant and a free people of the 19th century; and we may then shake off this dull unmanly copyism which disgraces our school, and daring to think for ourselves, invent, and perfect an architecture suited to the ideas, religious and moral, of our times, and in accordance with the materials and structure of an improved practice, and a great and rich and thinking people.”

The north *Porch* is a lofty, oblong vestibule, vaulted and groined, and divided into two equal portions by clustered columns at the sides, each of which is divided horizontally into three tiers by two string-courses, and each story is ornamented with arcades springing from insulated and attached columns. A lofty double door-

way, with a central pillar, forms the opening to the church, whilst the opposite or outer entrance to the porch is by a tall and deep open arch. This consists of several bold mouldings, three of which are sculptured with diagonal and foliated ornaments. On each side of the archway are insulated columns, with bold enriched capitals, among the foliage of which, on the eastern side, are representations of several human figures; one of them is fastened to a tree, and apparently pierced with arrows: other figures are provided with bows; in another group is a headless man and two other men; and in a third, a man in the act of seizing the head of another from the jaws of some animal. This Sculpture is supposed to represent three events in the life and death of St. Edmund, King, and Martyr, who was shot by the Danes with arrows "on all sides," and afterwards decapitated, Nov. 20th, anno 870. It may be remarked, in this place, that an uniform *parapet*, with corbel table and block cornice, continues all round the Church, both on the clerestory and the aisles; and it may be further noticed that the masonry of the whole building, excepting the western front, is good, sound, and skilfully executed. Perhaps there is not a church in the kingdom, of the same age, where the stone has been so well chosen, better put together, and where it remains in so perfect a state. This deserves the particular notice and study of architects, and builders.

The *Chapter-House* on the north side of the church was built in the time of William de Marchia, the 27th Bishop, by the contributions of well-disposed people; it is an octangular building, with one side attached to a staircase; and each of the seven other sides occupied by two small windows in the lower story, opening to the crypt, or apartment on the ground floor, and one large window above communicating to the chapter-room. These windows are bounded by buttresses of unusual form, at the outer face; i. e. they finish with an angle at the extremity, instead of being square. The buttresses are surmounted with crocketed pinnacles, and are perforated with water-spouts, finished externally

with monsters' heads. Over the windows and between each two buttresses are several small apertures to the space between the lead and groined roof. A perforated parapet surrounds the upper part of this building.

The *Nave* presents an uniform series of columns, arches, triforium, clerestory, and vaulting; and the windows, vaulting, and columns of the aisles are of the same style and date. A solid and substantial character pervades the whole, whilst the capitals and other decorative parts are sculptured in a free, fanciful, and masterly style.

Advancing eastward we view with astonishment the singular series of abutments of double arches raised between the four piers under the centre tower, and naturally wish to ascertain the time and cause of their erection. That the architect who designed the original central tower intended to carry it nearly or quite as high as the present building we can scarcely doubt; and we cannot easily question his competency to the task, after minutely examining other parts of the edifice: yet the architect who raised the two upper divisions of that structure must have considered the piers incompetent to sustain the additional superstructure, and therefore adopted this novel mode to give security and stability to his new work. As the walls of the choir, transept, and nave formed substantial buttresses to the exterior of the tower piers, these double arches, with open spandrels, were calculated to form a counterpoise to the lateral pressure. At Salisbury we find a similar principle adopted but different in design. At Wells, the abutment is continued from the bottom to the top of the pier: but at Salisbury it appears to act only on a small part of it.

In the year 1842 a subscription was opened by the Ven. Archdeacon Brymer with £1000, and the late Dean Goodenough with £500, and liberally supported by the public, for the purpose of removing the white-wash and ochre which so long had disfigured the fabric, and with the further view of repairing and restoring the interior of the Church to its original

beauty. This praiseworthy design has been well carried out under the able direction of Mr. Ferrey, so far as regards the nave and the lady chapel, and there is now good hope it will be shortly extended to the choir. A subscription is now in progress for this purpose, in which Dr. Jenkyns the Dean, and his Lady, have led the way by a donation of £500, the Dean and Chapter guaranteeing £1000.^a

An organ screen, of stone, separates the choir from the centre aisle of the transept. It will not, however, detain us by its richness or beauty: nor shall we find much to excite admiration in its ponderous organ case.^b The doorways to the aisles are in a much better style. The *Choir* is fitted up with twenty stalls on each side, and ten at the west end, with Bishop's throne, pulpit, pews, &c. The three first arches, east of the tower, with the columns, &c. are similar to those of the nave; but the three on each side of the presbytery are more lofty, lighter in character, and more elegant in proportions. The character of the stalls, the design of the bishop's throne, the doorways to the aisles, the highly wrought and elaborate screen work in front of the triforium, the tracery, the groining of the roof, the eastern end of the presbytery, with the altar, the arches above opening to the lady chapel, the painted window filling up the apex of the arch, with the series of niches, &c. deserve minute and particular attention. A very handsome stained glass window, given by F. H. Dickinson, Esq., M.P. has been lately placed over the bishop's throne.

Passing from the choir, through the south or north aisle, and turning eastward, the stranger is conducted to the *Lady Chapel*. Among the rich, the picturesque, and fanciful combinations of ecclesiastical architecture, there is not one, perhaps, in England to compare with that now alluded to; here we see different groups of clustered

^a See the address to the public in the appendix to this work.

^b The organ was raised by the direction of Dean Creighton, in 1664; and was completely repaired, &c. by Mr. S. Green, of London, in 1786, at the expense of the then Dean and Chapter.

pillars, with many reed-like shafts, crowned by richly-foliated capitals, and branching off into numerous ribbed ramifications; at the intersections of which are several bosses, sculptured into beautiful wreaths and clusters of foliage. Tombs, with episcopal effigies, &c. a sumptuous shrine, large windows filled with tracery mouldings and deeply-toned stained glass, are the varied and combining objects of this fascinating scene: nearly the whole whereof has been lately restored to its original style, the greater part of the monuments and mural tablets being removed to the cloisters. A new window, given by the Rev. J. H. Pinder, and his Theological Pupils, has been substituted for the old one in the south transept, and new pavement of encaustic tile has been laid down; thus rendering this unique chapel one of the most elegant in the kingdom.

Branching from the north aisle of the choir, and passing through a vaulted vestibule, we enter the octangular Chapel or Room beneath the *Chapter House*; for being on the same floor as the church, and above ground, it cannot properly be called a crypt. Its vaulted roof is sustained by a central clustered column, and by eight other columns of single shafts ranged round the other concentrically. The capitals are very large, for the purpose of sustaining the six broad ribs which rest on each. Suspended from one of the arches is a wooden lantern, and near the door is a large and curious piscina, having the sculptured figure of a dog with a bone lying in a basin. This room is now merely a place for lumber; outside of the door, in the vestibule, is a fixed stone lantern, and in the same place are some ancient stone coffins.

Among the characteristics of Wells Cathedral is the *Chapter House*, or *Room*, the floor of which is about twenty feet above that of the church: it is therefore approached by a staircase, branching off from the eastern aisle of the north transept. A flight of forty-eight steps, leads to the chapter room, and to a passage, or gallery still higher up, which passing over three archways across the public road, conducts to the court

called the *Vicar's Close*. The architectural character and decorations of the chapter room cannot fail of impressing every person with an idea of the beauty, symmetry, and scientific construction of this member of the fabric. Around the seat and under the windows there are fifty-one stalls; and, including the Bishop's throne, there is the same number in the choir, appropriated to the members of the large and smaller chapter respectively.

The Cloisters occupy three sides of a quadrangle, as already described, on the south side of the nave, and enclose the Burrying Ground. Over the eastern side is the Library, and over the opposite side are rooms now used for the Chapter Grammar School and the Lectures of the Theological College. Against the walls of the Cloisters are arranged the monuments which have been removed from the Lady Chapel, and some others.

ACCOUNT OF THE MONUMENTS OF THE BISHOPS OF BATH AND WELLS:

ARRANGED IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER,
AND SOME OTHERS.

AT this distance of time, and after the removals which must have taken place during the successive restorations of the Cathedral, it is impossible, perhaps, to affix to the ancient mutilated *Effigies* which still remain here the true names of the Prelates whom they were intended to represent. Tradition is a very imperfect guide, and though useful on many occasions to corroborate written documents, it must not be suffered to influence the belief at the expense of the judgment. Names have been assigned to several of the monumental figures, yet certainly without due attention to the character of the sculpture, or the era to which they refer. Thus, three in the north aisle of the choir, on the stone seat at the back of the stalls, are said to be those of *Brithelm*, *Kinewald*, and *Alwyn*; the first of whom died in 973; the second in 975; and the last in 1000: yet from the style of costume, and other indications, it may be inferred that scarcely one of them is anterior to the Norman conquest. Leland says, "In boreali insula juxta Chorum. Quatuor tumuli et imagines Episcoporum Wellen. quæ referunt magnam vetustatem:"^a but he has not attempted to name them. The fourth, on the same side, is said to be *Bishop Giso*, who died in 1088; and Bishop Godwin inclines to that opinion: yet there is reason to doubt its correctness, for the effigy has only a priest's cap, and no mitre; the right hand is upraised, as in the

^a "Itinerary," vol. iii. p. 107: edit. 1744.

act of giving the benediction. One of the other figures also wears a cap, and is similarly represented. The remaining Effigies, both which have mitres and wreathed staffs, or crosiers, are habited in *pontificalibus*, and have their hands crossed.

In the south aisle of the choir, in nearly similar situations to the above, there are three other Episcopal effigies of remote date: these also have been mentioned by Leland, but without any appropriation, except the one towards the west; on which, he says the word *Burwoldus* is inscribed. That Prelate died about the year 1000. The figure thus referred to, is represented with his hands lying flat across his body, a plain staff knobbed at top, but not crooked, and the strings of his mitre spread over his shoulders, so as to form a kind of arch or pediment. The two other figures are said to be those of the rival Bishops, *Ethelwyn* and *Brithwyn*, both of whom died in the year 1026. Gough, alluding, as it appears, to all the above effigies, states, that they are said to have come from Glastonbury; ^b but the correctness of such report is very questionable; for we know of only one Bishop of this See who was buried at Glastonbury, viz. Merehwit, in 1033: and Leland, expressly referring to these effigies, calls them Bishops of Wells. The easternmost, or that of Brithwyn, as commonly designated, is a very boldly sculptured figure, of Purbeck marble, upon a plain tomb, thickly coated with a yellow wash. His arms are placed across his body; his crosier is surmounted by rich scroll-like foliage; and foliage, similarly rich, ornaments the recess in which his head appears to repose.

Bishop *Joceline* (ob. 1242) was buried in the middle of the choir, under a marble tomb inlaid with his figure in *brass*; ^c but the latter had been torn away in Godwin's time, and the tomb "shamefully defaced." So little respect, indeed, have the successive conservators of this fabric shewn to the memory of one to whom they are so

^b "Sepulchral Monuments," vol. i. part ii. p. 197.

^c Leland says, "*Jocelinus sepultus in medio Chori Eccl. Wellen. tumba alta cum imag. ærea.*"—"Itinerary," vol. iii. p. 107.

much indebted, that they have suffered his monument to be utterly destroyed.

It has been already stated, on the authority of the Canon of Wells, that *Bishop Bitton*, or *Button*, the first of that name (ob. 1264) was interred in the Lady Chapel; and Bishop Godwin says, "He lieth buried in the middle" of that chapel "under a marble tombe."^d Leland says, "*Guil. Bitton*, primus episcopus," &c. "jacet cum imagine ærea in capella D. *Mariæ* ad orientalem partem ecclesiæ de Welles."^e From this honourable place of sepulture it may be inferred that Bitton had been chiefly concerned in the erection of the Lady Chapel; but there is no documentary evidence to substantiate the fact. His tomb has been since removed, but to what part is questionable. Had not Leland stated his image to have been of *brass*, we might have conceived his tomb to be now standing near the wall on the north side of St. Catherine's Chapel; which, with the opposite Chapel of St. John, the Evangelist, forms a kind of lesser transept to this Cathedral. Each side of the tomb is divided by small graduated buttresses into six compartments, displaying as many trefoil-headed ogee arches, terminating in finials; and at each end is a similar arch: in every spandril is a shield of arms. On a Purbeck slab, covering the tomb, is a recumbent effigy of the Bishop, much mutilated; the hands being broken off, crosier destroyed, &c.: his head rests upon a cushion, diapered; and his feet against a lion. The drapery is apparently thin; but the folds are disposed in a broad and simple style. The whole figure has been painted in colours, as was customary in former times.

The monument of the second *Bishop Bitton*, is situated at the back of the choir, between the second and third columns from the west. It merely consists of a coffin-shaped marble slab, on which is an engraved episcopal figure, *in pontificalibus*; the right hand is in

^d "Catalogue of English Bishops," p. 368.

^e "Itinerary, vol. iii. p. 108.

the act of giving the benediction ; small angels, with censers, are depicted in the spandrils. Leland, in describing the figures in the south aisle of the choir, says. "Quartus est *Gulielmi Bytton*, qui obiit. Novem. 1274, 2. E. 1. quem vulgus nuper pro sanco coluit." Godwin also assigns this figure to the same Prelate ; and particularly mentions the long continued resort of the superstitious to his tomb for the cure of tooth-ache.

Bishop *William de Marchia*, who died in June, 1302, was buried in the south transept, where his effigy lies on a low pedestal, beneath a recessed arch in the south wall. The head rests on a double cushion, supported by angels ; and at the feet is a cropped-eared dog : the right hand is raised, as in the act of blessing ; and his left holds a crosier. On the wall, above his head, is the mask of a man, boldly sculptured, with curled hair, beard, and mustachios ; probably intended for the Saviour : a female head, with similar hair, probably of the Virgin, is inserted in the wall at his feet. Ornamental ribs and tracery spread over the soffite of the arch ; and at the back, on brackets of foliage, are three figures, now headless and otherwise mutilated ; two of which represent angels, and the third a female. On the face of the pedestal, under the verge of the tomb, are six masks of different character and aspect ; four of them appear old, and are bearded ; one represents a young man ; and another a nun. The front of the monument is formed by open screen-work, in three compartments, separated by graduated buttresses, which stand on a plain projecting basement. Each buttress is enriched with pinnacles, &c., and between them rise three pointed arches, having pendent tracery, and pyramidical heads adorned with crockets and finials composed of rich foliage.

Bishop *Haselshawe*, who died in 1308, was buried in the nave, beneath a large slab, which still remains, and measures sixteen feet in length, by six feet in width. It lies near Bishop Bubwith's Chapel, and has been richly inlaid with brasses ; but all are gone : the episcopal figure, in brass, was ten feet in length. Some

indistinct traces of an inscription are apparent on the verge of the slab.

Near the last gravestone, in the middle of the nave, was an ancient slab, which has been ascribed to *King Ina*, the reputed founder of the original Church of Wells. That sovereign, however, having been shorn a monk, died in privacy at Rome, together with Ethelburga, his queen, between the years 725 and 740; and we have no account of his remains ever being brought to England.

Bishop *Drokensford*, says Leland was interred at the south-west end of St. John's Chapel: but Godwin states that he "lieth buried under a reasonable seemely toombe of free stone in the chappell of S. Katherine."¹ The Canon of Wells says, "before the altar of St. John the Baptist;" which was probably the fact, as Bishop Drokensford had founded a chantry there. This Prelate died in 1329; and is commemorated by a fine *Monumental Shrine*, which stands near the south side of the Lady Chapel. It consists of an altar tomb, surmounted by a lofty canopy, supported by eight clustered buttresses: these sustain eight intermediate arched pediments, highly wrought with trefoils, quatrefoils, crockets, finials, and other ornaments. At the east end is a niche, having a two-fold canopy, enriched with numerous fleurs de lis, in gold, on a blue ground. There is no appearance of either brass effigy or inscription on this monument.

In the north aisle, close to the second column from the east, at the back of the choir, is the tomb of Bishop *Ralph de Salopia*, who died in 1363. This is said to have originally stood in the middle of the presbytery, before the high altar; but it was removed to its present situation about three hundred years ago; because, Leland says, it obstructed the priests in their administration.² Godwin states, "that it lost its grates by the

¹ "Catalogue of English Bishops," p. 370. "Postquam annos sedisset novemdecem defunctus, tumulo infertur specioso in Capella sanctæ Catharinæ," &c. are the words used by the same writer in his "De Præsulibus," p. 376.

² "Itinerary," vol. iii. *ut supra*.

way." He adds also, from the records of the Church, that the figure recumbent upon the tomb (the work of an able artist) expressed in "a very lively manner" the animated countenance of his person when living.^h His effigy, which is of alabaster, was finely sculptured, but it is now much defaced by mischievous boys. He is pontifically habited, and has a rich mitre and gloves, ornamented with jewellery; his hands are closed, as in prayer: the top of the crosier is broken off. His head reposes on two embroidered cushions, and at his feet are two dogs, collared. The verge of the tomb is embattled.

Bishop *Harewell*, (ob. 1386), was interred in the south aisle of the choir. His tomb, which is a plain pedestal on a basement step, is let into the south wall, nearly opposite to that assigned to Burwold. His effigy has been richly ornamented, but is now much defaced and broken: the head rests on two cushions; his mitre is curiously decorated, and his robe wreathed round his crosier, the head of which is gone. Godwin, who regards this figure, which is of alabaster, as the performance of an excellent sculptor, states that it represents the deceased as of a very fat and large form.ⁱ

Bishop *Erghum*, ob. 1400, was buried in the nave: his gravestone, which lies on the west side of the chapel erected by Bishop Beckington's executor, has been inlaid with a brass episcopal figure, and two shields, as may be traced by the indents.

On the north side of the nave, beneath the second arch from the transept, is the monumental chapel of Bishop *Bubwith*, who was interred there in 1424. This beautiful little structure was erected by himself, and endowed for the support of a chantry priest to pray for his soul. In the upright it consists of two divisions of panelled arches, surmounted by a cornice ornamented with trailing vine branches, and other sculpture. The tracery of the upper division is divided into many parts;

^h "Imago tumulo superincumbens (egregii alicujus artificis opis) vivos viventis vultus vividissime exprimit, ut in archivis Ecclesiæ scriptum reperi."—"De Præsulibus," p. 377.

ⁱ Ibid.

and on each side, and over the two doorways, which open to the north and south, it is finely pierced. At the east end, in the inside, are various niches with rich canopies, now greatly mutilated; and at the west end is a shield of arms, viz. that of the See, impaling *Bubwith*, the latter a fess, engrailed, between three groups of conjoined holly leaves, four in each.

On the south side of the choir, contiguous to the steps leading to the altar, is the monumental chapel erected by Bishop *Beckington*, who died in 1465, and near which he lies buried. This is designed in the most florid style of decorated architecture; and although partly of wood, excites great interest from the excellence of its execution and the elaborated manner in which it is wrought. The western side is entirely open, with the exception of a compartment of rich screen-work near the top; which, among other ornaments, exhibits two demi-angels displaying shields of the five wounds, and having large expanded wings, the feathers of which are so profusely spread as to fill the spandrils below the cornice. All the canopy, or roof, is underwrought with elaborated tracery, including pendants, quatrefoils, panelled arches, &c. On the south side is a small piscina, and over the eastern end is an enriched canopy. Small graduated buttresses, having rich pinnacles, sustain the sides of the chapel: and the mouldings of the cornice are ornamented with rosettes and fructed vine branches.

The tomb of Bishop *Beckington*, which, like the chapel, is partly of wood, is curious. It is raised on a basement step, and consists of two divisions; viz. 1st, a table slab, whereon is a recumbent figure of the Bishop, in alabaster, habited in the same way as he had appointed to be buried;¹ and 2d, a low pedestal beneath the former, on which is another effigy of the deceased, in freestone, represented as an emaciated corpse extended on a winding-sheet. This kind of contrasted exhibition of the human figure, intended to denote the

¹ Godwin, "De Præsulibus," p. 382, note f.

awful change which disease and death occasion, and thus convey a moral lesson to human vanity, was not uncommon in our cathedrals about the middle of the fifteenth century. The Bishop's garments, mitre, maniple, &c. have been richly gilt and painted; and the bordering, and other parts, have been depicted as inlaid, or set with precious stones: his head is reposing on two cushions, tasselled. The slab is supported by six small columns, three on each side, having low trefoil-headed arches between them, forming a sort of canopy over the emaciated figure; and the spandrils of which are almost wholly filled by the luxuriant plumage of demi-angels, which rest with outspreading wings on the shafts of the columns: these shafts were originally adorned with panelled arches and pinnacles, but much of the old work has been broken away, and its place supplied by plain wood.

On the south side of the nave, immediately opposite to Bishop Bubwith's chapel, is another very beautiful chantry chapel, by some called Bishop Beckington's, and by others Bishops Knight's, but inaccurate as to both; for Godwin expressly states that it was erected by *Hugh Sugar*, LL. D. Treasurer of Wells (who was one of Beckington's executors), entirely of freestone, in place of a chapel of wood that previously stood there.^k This, like Bubwith's, is a sexangular structure, and not dissimilar in its general design; but the tracery of the upper division is more elaborate, and the frieze and crowning ornaments more richly sculptured: the east end, or altar part of the interior, is likewise far more sumptuously profuse in its sculptural decorations than that chapel. Attached to the frieze, both on the north and south, are six demi-angels sustaining shields, charged, among other bearings, with the symbols of the five wounds, a cypher or monogram of the builder's

^k Hugo Sugar, &c. "legum Doctor, qui Capellam elegantem ex polito lapide suis sumtibus construxit, magno pulpito contiguam, ubi loci lignea jam olim fuerat posita."—"De Præsulibus," p. 381. The great pulpit here mentioned was built by Bishop Knight seventy or eighty years subsequently to the erection of the chapel.

initials, viz. H. S., his arms, viz. three sugar-loaves, surmounted by a doctor's cap. The same cypher and arms are repeated on shields, within quatrefoils and circles, under the canopy in the interior. The eastern façade, above where the altar stood, displays a most elegant series of five niches, separated by clustered buttresses, and crowned by highly enriched turreted canopies, the soffites of which are groined in divers forms: the pedestals, which are wrought in a corresponding manner, are adorned with foliage. All the eastern part from the doorways is surmounted by a most splendid canopy, or vault, of stone, overspread with fanlike tracery, a rich central pendant, quatrefoils in circles, and a profusion of other architectural forms and ornaments.

Adjoining the above chapel, against the great column on the western side, is a *Stone pulpit*, erected in Henry the Eighth's reign by Bishop *Knight*, who died in 1547; and which, says Godwin, "hee caused to be built for his tombe." It consists of a basement, and a superstructure fronted with pilasters, panelled, surmounted by an entablature; on the frieze of which is the following inscription in Roman capitals:—PREACHE THOU THE WORDE. BE FERVENT IN SEASON AND OVT OF SEASON. REPROVE, REBVKE, EXHORT, IN ALL LONGE SVFFERYNG & DOCTRYNE. 2 TIMO. In front are the Bishop's arms.

Bishop *Berkeley*, ob. 1581, is commemorated by an altar tomb on the north side of St. John's Chapel; to which place it was removed from the choir to make room for the monument of Bishop Kidder. In front are three panels, in which, on octo-foils, are shields of arms displaying those of the See impaled with Berkeley's.

On the south side of the choir, between the two easternmost columns, is the monument of Bishop *Still*, ob. 1607; which exhibits the uncouth heaviness of fashion in James the First's time. The deceased is represented by a recumbent figure, in parliamentary robes, on a large sarcophagus, beneath an entablature and semicircular-arched canopy, which is supported by

two Corinthian columns. His head reposes on two embroidered cushions, tasseled; and his hands are raised as in prayer: he has a long beard, and a large ruff, plaited. At the back of the arch is an inscription to the Bishop's memory; and in the spandrils are the arms of his See with those of the family, on separate shields. The same arms, impaled in one shield, surmount the central part of the entablature.

Bishop *Lake* was buried in the south aisle of the choir, near the back of the Bishop's throne; where his memory is recorded by his arms, sculptured in stone, and a brief inscription on a brass plate. He died in 1626.

In St. John's Chapel, on the eastern side, is the ponderous marble tomb and effigy of Bishop *Creighton*, who died in 1672. In front of the pedestal are three shields, displaying the arms of the deceased, also those of the See of Wells, and the latter combined with those of Bath Abbey. An inscribed tablet (principally relating to his exile), and an elliptical pediment, fronted by a shield of the arms of the See impaling *Creighton*, surmounted by a mitre, complete the design.

Between the easternmost columns, on the north side of the choir, is the lofty monument of Bishop *Kidder* and his lady, who were killed in the great storm of November 26, 1703. This was erected by their surviving daughter, who is represented, by an elaborate figure, reclining on a slab, and looking at two urns supposed to contain the ashes of her ill-fated parents. At the sides are two Corinthian columns, supporting an entablature and open pediment, crowned with flaming lamps and a lozenge shield of the family arms. Beneath the entablature is expanded drapery, with cherubim in basso-relievo.

Against the south wall of the south aisle is a lofty monument of marble, with a long inscription on a tablet between two Corinthian columns supporting an entablature and pediment, in commemoration of Bishop *Hooper*, who died in 1727. At the sides, above the pedestal, are youthful Genii; and over the entablature are the arms of the See, impaling *Hooper*.

Against the south wall of the cloisters is a monumental tablet to the memory of Bishop *Beadon* and Rachel his wife. And on the same wall, near the south entrance door, is a very chaste, white marble tablet commemorative of Bishop *Law*, his wife, and daughters; both which families lie interred in the Lady Chapel.

In the south transept is the dilapidated monument of *Joan, Viscountess Lisle*, a daughter and heiress of Thomas Chedder, Esq. and widow of John Viscount Lisle, who died on the 13th of July, 1464. It consists of a low tomb, under an elevated recessed ogee arch, flanked by buttresses, and ornamented with rich crockets and finials. An embattled cornice, with pierced work in panels, terminates the design. At the back of the arch are three niches, with enriched pinnacles, &c. which were brought to light in 1809, by the taking down of a wall with which the recess had been partially filled up, and which was partly formed of broken fragments of the effigy of the Viscountess.

In St. Martin's Chapel, in the south transept, is the architectural monument of *John Storthwait*, who was Precentor of Wells, in 1426, and Chancellor in 1439: he died about 1454. The basement is ornamented with panelled arches and small buttresses; upon which, within an enriched canopied recess, lies a figure of the deceased, with his hands as in prayer. The upper part consists of a panelling of trefoil-head arches, pinnacles, and other sculpture.

In the adjoining Chapel, which is dedicated to St. Kalixtus, and now used as the canons' vestry, is the elegant though mutilated monument of Dean *Henry Husee*, who died in the year 1305. It is composed of alabaster; and consists of a recumbent figure of the Dean, on a basement tomb, beneath a recessed arch, surmounted by a rich but broken canopy. The front of the tomb is divided by small buttresses into nine compartments; five of which include as many headless figures of ecclesiastics, and the others shields of arms: the verge is embattled. Pendent tracery ornaments the lower part of the arch; in the spandrils are quatrefoils,

&c., and above the arch is a series of trefoil-headed niches, with pinnacles, a cornice, and a crowning ornament of trefoils.

At the northern extremity of the north transept is an altar tomb, with a canopy, to the memory of *Thomas Cornish*, Precentor, Chancellor and Canon Residentiary of this Cathedral, who died in 1513. He was Suffragan Bishop to this Cathedral under Fox, and of Exeter to Hugh Oldham. He was also Provost of Oriel College, Oxford. (See *Athenæ Oxon.* edition by Dr. Bliss, vol. ii. p. 698.)

In St. John's Chapel, at the eastern end of the north transept, is an altar tomb, sustaining a recumbent effigy of a priest, said to perpetuate *Dean Forest*, who died in March, 1446. Near it are some marble tablets to the memory of different branches of the *Brydges* family.

On the wall of the north aisle, near the northern entrance, is a marble slab commemorating *Thomas Linley*, Esq. who died Nov. 19, 1795; and also two of his daughters, one of whom, Elizabeth Ann, was wife of R. B. Sheridan, Esq. A pathetic poetical epitaph, by William Linley, son of the above Thomas, is inscribed on the tablet. The family vault is immediately beneath.

Attached to the same wall, near Bishop Bubwith's Chapel, is a neat mural tablet to the memory of Wm. Parfitt, Esq., and Ann his wife, formerly Deputy Registrar of the Diocese, who died 1837. Near it is another to the memory of Susanna Letitia Henning, wife of C. M. Henning, Esq., who died 1816.

Against the wall of the opposite aisle is a small tablet commemorative of Geraldina Eugenia Wallace, who died 1820.

Attached to one of the clerestory windows on the south side of the nave is a small *Minstrel Gallery*, having its front divided into three panels, with quatrefoil tracery, inclosing blank shields. On the south side of the nave, over the arches, are two large busts of a Bishop and a King, with small figures attached to each: these have been already noticed. In the north transept is a curious, ancient, and complicated *Clock*, which is

traditionally said to have been executed by Peter Lightfoot, a monk of Glastonbury, about the year 1325. Its circular dial represents the hours of the day and night, the phases of the moon, and other astronomical signs; and at the summit is a piece of machinery with figures of knights on horseback, or cavalry, which revolve round a centre at the time of striking the hours. At one angle of the transept is a statue of a seated man, which is connected with the clock by rods, and strikes the hours and quarters with his foot against a bell.

Among the fanciful, amusing, and interesting features of this truly interesting Church, the numerous and diversified *Capitals to the columns* demand particular notice. They abound with rich and varied sculpture, and shew that the artist who designed and the artizan who executed them worked in co-operation and with one feeling. Though all are restricted to give proportions and general forms, and each is adapted to its particular office, yet they all vary from one another, and each is distinguished by its own individual beauty and originality.

Detached from, but associated in history and architectural characteristics with the Cathedral, are the Palace, the Deanery, the Vicar's Close, or College, and some gatehouses, &c. in the market place. The *Palace*, a short distance south of the Cathedral, is a large irregular pile of building, surrounded by an embattled lofty wall, and that again guarded by a wide moat, filled with water. Over this on the north side, is a bridge, with an embattled gatehouse, on the palace side. The area within the walls is said to embrace nearly seven acres of land, occupied by a court-yard and lawns, kitchen and pleasure gardens, offices and the dwelling house. The latter contains some specimens of ancient architecture. On the south side of the outer court, or ballium, as it may be named, are the walls of a grand and spacious hall, which was about one hundred and twenty feet in length, by seventy feet in width, and was built by Bishop Burnell, in the reign of Edward I. It was enlightened by tall and finely formed windows; had

a music gallery at one end, and staircase turrets at the angles. Near it are the remains of a once beautiful chapel, supposed to have been built by Joceline de Wells, which had fallen into much decay, the east and west windows being blocked up, but Bishop Law, with much taste and judgment, in great measure restored it, opened these beautiful windows, enriched others with stained glass, and rendered this chapel a fit place of worship. Bishop Erghum fortified, enlarged, and strengthened this Palace during his prelacy, and made it a complete fortress. Within fifty years afterwards it was greatly dilapidated; as Bishop Beckington found it necessary to repair it and add to its accommodations. By the great Duke of Somerset (uncle to Edward VI.) it suffered much waste and injury; and still further destruction by a despicable fanatic, named Burgess, during the Civil War in Charles the First's time. These things considered, and the comparatively small income of the See, we are surprised that the Palace possesses so much antiquarian interest, and that it affords so much domestic comfort and accommodation, to which, however, Bishops Beadon and Law considerably added; but the alterations now in progress will, it is hoped, render it what it should be in that respect.

At a short distance north-west of the Cathedral is the *Deanery House*, a large and commodious mansion. The building is nearly square, with a court-yard to the east, gardens and offices to the north, and abutting on the south to the road. The oldest part of the present building appears to be of Gunthorpe's time, who was elected Dean in 1472, and is said to have entertained Henry the Seventh here on his return from the west. In the hall is an ancient sculptured fire-place, and on the garden side are some fine oriel windows; it has been considerably improved by its present talented incumbent Dr. Jenkyns.

Directly north of the Cathedral is a series of tenements, with chapel, hall, &c. surrounding a long area, called the *Vicar's College*, or *Close*. Bishop Salopia appears to have been the chief founder of this college,

and builder of the houses, &c. The collegiate establishment consists of two principals, five seniors, and four other vicars. The buildings comprize twenty houses on each side of the court, or close, a chapel at the north end, and a common hall, with its appendages, at the opposite end. The buildings, as well as the funds of this College, are under great obligations to Bishop Beckington.

A CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF THE BISHOPS OF BATH AND WELLS, WITH THE TEMPORARY KINGS OF ENGLAND.

No.	BISHOPS.	Elected or Consecrated.	Died or Translated.	Buried at	Kings.
ANGLO-SAXON DYNASTY.					
1	Athelmus, or Adelm	circa .. 905 or 909	to Canterbury	Canterbury	Edward the Elder
2	Wulfhelm, or Wlfelmus .. ..	.. .. 924	ditto	Canterbury	Athelstan
3	Elphege, or Elfege	circa .. 925	.. ..	.. ..	Athelstan
4	Wulfhelm, Wlfelmus, or Wulfelm	occurs* .. 938	.. ..	.. ..	Edmund and Eldred
5	Brithelm, or Brihtelm ^b .. ..	.. .. 958	died	Wells	Edwy and Edgar
6	Kyneward, or Kinewald .. ..	.. .. 974	.. ..	Wells	Edgar, &c.
7	Sigar	circa .. 975	.. ..	.. ..	Ethelred
8	Alwyn, Adelwyn, Alfwin, or Ealwyn	.. .. 997	.. ..	Wells	Ethelred
9	Burwold .. ..	.. .. 1000	circa	Wells	Ethelred
10	Leovingus, Living, Elstan, or Elstanus	.. .. 1001	to Canterbury	Canterbury	Ethelred
11	Ethelwyn, or Agelwinus, sup- planted by	.. .. 1013	.. ..	.. ..	Edmund and Canute
12	Brithwin, who was ejected, in turn, by the same	circa .. 1021	died	Wells	Canute
13	Ethelwyn	1025	died	Wells	Canute
14	Merewit, or Merewhit	1027	died	Glastonbury	Canute
	Dudor, or Dudocus	1033	died	Wells	Harold I. to Harold II

* Le Neve says, 942.

^b He was translated, in 959, to Canterbury; but upon the pretext of insufficiency, was in a short time removed back to Wells. Joh. Brompton, col. 864.

No.	BISHOPS.	Elected or Consecrated.	Died or Translated.	Buried at	Kings.
NORMAN DYNASTY.					
15	Giso, Gisa, or Giso Hasban OF BATH.	consecrated May 17, 1060	.. .. . 1088	Wells	William I
16	John de Villula .. .. .	.. .. . 1088	died Dec. 1123	Bath	William II. Henry I
17	Godfrey	cons. .. Aug. 26, 1123	died Aug. 16, 1135	Bath	Henry I
OF BATH AND WELLS.					
18	Robert ^e .. .. .	.. .. . 1135	died .. Sept. 1, 1165 or 6	Bath	Stephen
SAXON LINE RESTORED.					
19	Reginald Fitz Joceline	cons. .. June 23, 1174	to Canterbury Nov. 1191	Bath 1191	Henry II
OF BATH & GLASTONBURY.					
20	Savaric	cons. .. Sept. 20, 1192	.. .. . Aug. 8, 1205	Bath	Richard I
21	Jocelin de Welles.. .. .	cons. .. May 28, 1206	died Nov. 19, 1242	Wells	John
OF BATH AND WELLS.					
22	Roger	cons. .. Sept. 11, 1214	died Dec. 1247	Bath	Henry III.
23	Wm. Bitton, or Button	cons. .. July 14, 1248	died April 3, 1264	Wells	Henry III.
24	Walter Giffard	elected .. May 22, 1264	to York .. Oct. 15, 1265	York 1279	Henry III. and Edw. I
25	Wm. Bitton, or Button	elect. .. Feb. 10, 1267-8	died Dec. 4, 1274	Wells	Henry III. and Edw. I
26	Robert Bunnell	cons. .. April 7, 1274	died Oct. 25, 1292	Wells	Edward I
27	Wm. de Marchia, or De la March	elect. Jan. 30, 1293-94	died June 11, 1302	Wells	Edward I
cons. .. May 17, 1294					
28	Walter de Haselshawe, or Hes-	elect. .. Aug. 7, 1302	died Dec. 11, 1308	Wells	Edward I. and II
telshaw					
29	John Drokensford.. .. .	cons. .. Nov. 4, 1302	died May 13, 1329	Wells	Edward II. and III
elect. .. Feb. 5, 1309					
cons. .. Nov. 9, 1309					
30	Ralph de Salopia	cons. .. Dec. 3, 1329	died Aug. 14, 1363	Wells	Edward III
elect. .. but his election made void					
31	John Barnet	from Worcester, Nov. 24, 1363	trans. to Ely Dec. 15, 1366	Ely	Edward III. Rich. II

32	John Harewell, LL.B. Richard Medeford	.. ..	cons. .. March 7, 1366 | .. June or July, 1386 elected July 1, 1386; but resigned before possession	LANCASTRIAN LINE.	Wells	Edward III. Rich. II
33	Walter Skirlawe, LL.D.	.. ..	from Lichf. Aug. 18, 1386 | to Durham April 3, 1388	LANCASTRIAN LINE.	Durham ..	Rich. II. Hen. IV
34	R. Erghum, LL.D. Richard Clifford	.. ..	from Sarum, April 3, 1388 | died .. April 11, 1400 advan. by papal authority; but resign. before posses.		Wells ..	Rich. II. Hen. IV
35	Henry Bowet, LL.D.	.. ..	cons. .. Nov. 20, 1401 | to York .. Oct. 7, 1407		York ..	Henry IV.
36	Nicholas Bubwith	.. ..	from York, Oct. 7, 1407 | .. Oct. 27, 1424		Wells ..	Henry IV. V. VI
37	John Stafford, LL.D.	.. ..	elected .. Dec. 1424 | to Canterb. Aug. 23, 1443 cons. .. May 27, 1425		Canterbury	Henry VI
38	Tho. de Beckington, LL.D. John Phreas, or Free	.. ..	cons. .. Oct. 13, 1443 | .. Jan. 14, 1464-5 advanced by papal authority, in 1466; but died before possession	HOUSE OF YORK.	Wells ..	Henry VI. Edw. IV
39	Rich. Stillington, LL.D.	.. ..	cons. .. March 16, 1466 | died 1491	UNION OF YORK AND LANCASTRIAN FAMILIES.	Wells ..	Edw. IV. Rich. III Henry VII
40	Richard Fox, LL.D.	.. ..	from Exeter, Feb. 8, 1492 | to Durham 1494 to Winchester .. 1502		Winchester	Henry VII
41	Oliver King, LL.D.	.. ..	from Exeter, Nov. 6, 1495 | died .. Aug. 29, 1503		Bath, or Windsor	Henry VII
42	Card. Adrian de Castello	.. ..	inst. .. March 12, 1496 from Hereford Aug. 1504 inst. by proxy, Oct. 20, 1504		.. ..	Henry VII. and VIII
43	Card. Thomas Wolsey	.. ..	.. .. Aug. 28, 1518 | resigned .. April, 1523	REFORMATION.	Leicester ..	Henry VIII
44	John Clarke, D.D.	.. ..	temporal, rest. May 2, 1523 | died .. Jan. 3, 1540-41		London ..	Henry VIII
45	William Knight, LL.D.	.. ..	cons. .. May 29, 1541 | died .. Sept. 29, 1547		Wells ..	Henry VIII. Edw. VI
46	William Barlow, D.D.	.. ..	St. David's Feb. 3, 1547 | ejected 1553		Chichester ..	Edward VI. and Mary
47	Gilbert Bourne, D.D.	.. ..	cons. .. April 1, 1554 | deprived 1558		Silverton ..	Mary and Elizabeth
48	Gilbert Berkeley, or Barkley, S. T. P.	.. ..	elect. .. Jan. 29, 1559 | died .. Nov. 2, 1581 cons. .. March 24, 1559		Wells ..	Elizabeth

^e In his time the first Dean was chosen.

No.	BISHOPS.	Elected or Consecrated.	Died or Translated.	Buried at	Kings.
49	Thomas Godwin, D. D.	elected .. Aug. 10, 1584 cons. .. Sept. 13, 1584	died .. Nov. 19, 1590	Okingham	Elizabeth.
UNION OF ENGLISH AND SCOTCH CROWNS.					
50	John Still, D. D.	cons. Feb. 11, 1592-93	died .. Feb. 16, 1607	Wells	James I
51	James Montague, D. D.	cons. .. April 17, 1608	to Winchester Oct. 4, 1616	Bath	James I
52	Arthur Lake, D. D.	elected .. Oct. 17, 1616	died .. May 4, 1626	Wells	James I, Charles I
53	William Laud, D. D.	from St. Dav. Sept. 19, 1626	to London .. July 28, 1628	Oxford	Charles I
54	Leonard Mawe, D. D.	elected .. July 24, 1628	to Canterb. Aug. 1633	Chiswick	Charles I
55	Walter Curle, D. D.	from Rochester, elect. .. Oct. 29, 1629	died .. Sept. 3, 1629	Subberton, Hants ..	Charles I
56	Wm. Pierce, or Piers, D. D.	from Peterborough, Nov. 26, 1632	to Winchester .. 1632	Walthamstow	Charles II
57	Robert Creighton, D. D.	elected .. May 25, 1670	died .. Nov. 21, 1672	Wells	Charles II
58	Peter Mew, LL. D.	elected .. Dec. 19, 1672	to Winchest. Nov. 22, 1684	Winchester	Charles II
59	Thomas Kenn, D. D.	cons. .. Jan. 25, 1684-5	deprived .. Feb. 1, 1690	Frome	James II, William III
60	Richard Kidder, D. D.	cons. .. Aug. 30, 1691	killed .. Nov. 27, 1703	Wells	William III, and Anne
61	George Hooper, D. D.	from St. Asaph, March, 14, 1703-4	died .. Sept. 6, 1727	Wells	Anne, George I. & II
62	John Wynne, S. T. P.	ditto .. Nov. 11, 1727	died .. July, 1743	.. ..	George II
63	Edward Willes, D. D.	from St. David's .. 1743	died .. Nov. 24, 1773	London	George II
64	Charles Moss, D. D.	ditto 1774	died 1802	London	George III
65	Richard Beadon, D. D.	from Gloucester .. 1802	died .. April, 20, 1824	Wells	George IV
66	Henry Law, D. D.	from Chester .. 1824	died .. Sept. 23, 1845	Wells	George IV, William IV
67	Hon. Richard Bagot, D. D.	from Oxford 1845	.. ..	.. ..	Victoria

A CHRONOLOGICAL LIST

OF THE

BISHOPS OF DORCHESTER, WINCHESTER, AND SHERBORNE;

TO WHICH THE DIOCESE OF WELLS ORIGINALLY BELONGED.

No.	BISHOPS.	Elected or Consecrated.	Died or Translated.	Buried at	Saxon Kings.
OF DORCHESTER.					
1	Birinus	circa 635	.. .. .. 650	Dorchester, after moved to Winches.	Cynegils, Kenwalsh
2	Agelbert, or Egilbert .. ..	.. .. .. 650	See divid. Abdicated	.. .. .. 660	Kenwalsh
3	Wina, Bishop of Dorchester and Winchester	.. .. .. 661	expelled 664	Winchester	Kenwalsh
4	Lothere, or Leutherius, Bishop of the West Saxons	.. .. .. 670	died 674	Winchester	Kenwalsh
OF WINCHESTER.					
1	Headda, or Hedda.. ..	.. .. .. 676	circa 703	Winchester	Ina
2	Daniel .. ..	.. .. .. 704	See again divided circa died.. .. 745	.. .. .. 706	Ina, Ethelard
OF SHERBORNE.					
1	Aldhelm	circa 706	died 709	.. .. .. 709	Ina
2	Forthere, or Fordhere .. ..	.. .. .. 709	died circa 737	.. .. .. 737	Ina, Ethelard
3	Hereward	present at a council confirms a charter	747 766	.. .. .. 766	Ethelard, Cuthred
4	Ethelmod .. ..	.. .. .. 812	.. .. .. 817	.. .. .. 817	Sigebert, Kinewulph
5	Denefrith .. ..	.. .. .. 812	.. .. .. 817	.. .. .. 817	Kinewulph
6	Wilbert, or Wigbert	before 817	.. .. .. 817	.. .. .. 817	Brithric
7	Ealstan	circa 817	.. .. .. 817	Sherborne	Egbert
					Egbert, Ethelwulph, Ethelbald, Ethelbert, Ethelred

No.	BISHOPS.	Elected or Consecrated.	Died or Translated.	Buried at	Saxon Kings.
8	Edmund, or Headmund ..	.. ..	slain ..	..	Ethelred
9	Etheleage ..	..	..	..	Ethelred
10	Alfy, or Alfsius ..	..	..	..	Alfred.
11	Asserius Menevensis ..	from Exeter ..	probably resign. Died according to Godwin, 883; Saxon chron. says 910	Sherborne ..	Edward the Elder
12	Swithelm, or Sighelm ..	Godwin says ..	.. ..	..	Alfred
13	Ethelwold, or Ethelward ..	.. ..	died ..	..	Alfred
14	Werstan ..	circa ..	slain ..	..	Edward the Elder

A CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF THE DEANS OF WELLS.

No.	DEANS.	Appointed or admitted.	Died or removed.
1	Ivo ^a ..	occurs 1135; and again 1159—Dugdale	
2	Richard de Spakeston, or Spaxton ..	occurs in 1160—Godwin; 1164—Reg. Dec. et Cap.; and 1174—Wharton	
3	Alexander ..	occurs 1180—Cart. Glaston. MS. p. 15; and 1209—Reg. Well	
4	Leonius ..	noticed 1213—Reg. Dec. et Cap.; 1215—Dugdale; Godwin places him in 1205	
5	Ralph de Lechlade..	Dugdale says he was elected during the time of Bishop Joceline	1213—Reg. Well.
6	Peter de Cicester ^b ..	attended as Dean, in Bath Abbey at Synod, April 4, 1220—Dugdale	died 1237—Reg. Dec. et Capital
7	William de Merton ..	elected September 19, 1237; Godwin says 1236	
8	John Saracen ..	appointed by the Pope 1243—Dugdale; Godwin says 1241. He occurs 1252	

No.	DEANS.	Appointed or admitted.	Died or removed.
26	Thomas Stanley	September 20, 1403—according to Dugdale; but Godwin and Le Neve say 1401	died March 11, 1409-10, Reg. Wellen.
27	Richard Courtney	May 26, 1410; Godwin says 1409	to Norwich, 1413—Reg. Wellen.
28	Thomas Karneke, or Karneka	1413—Le Neve; omitted by Godwin	died September, 1413—Reg. Bubbewith
29	Walter Medford, or Metford	November 8, 1413—Reg. Bubbewith	died 1423—Reg. Bubbewith
30	John Stafford, LL.D.	September 9, 1423	to this See, May, 1425—Reg. Wellen. See previous list
31	John Forrest	November 19, 1425	died Mar. 25, 1446, and bur. in the Cathedral to St. David's—Godwin
32	John de la Bere	Held it for a short time.—1447—Godwin	May, 3, 1467—Reg. Wellen.
33	Nicholas Carent, LL.D. ⁱ	1448—Godwin	July 16, 1472; buried in the Cathedral near Bishop Ralph de Salopia
34	William Wytham, LL.D.	1467.. .. .	died June 25, 1498
35	John Gunthorp, B.D. ^j	Elected Dec. 18, 1472; conf. Jan. 19, 1473.—Reg. Still.	died 1525—Reg. King. Reg. Castell
36	William Cousyn, or Cosyn	Elected Dec. 25, 1498; conf. April 15, 1499; installed by proxy, June 23, 1499; in person, June 8, 1502	resigned 1528
37	Thomas Winter ^k	March 26, 1526—Le Neve; 1525—Godwin	died in 1537; and was buried in the cloisters of St. Stephen's Chapel, Westm.
38	Richard Wolman, or Woolman, LL.D.	1529—Le Neve	beheaded in 1540
39	T. Cromwell, ^l Earl of Essex	1537; (prime minister to Henry VIII.)	resigned 1548—See Wood's "Fasti "
40	William Fitzjames, or Fitzwilliams	1540.. .. .	deprived 1550—Godwin
41	John Goodman ^m	1548—Le Neve	deprived 1553—Le Neve; but restored
42	William Turner, M.D. ⁿ	1550—Le Neve	deprived 1560
	John Goodman	Restored 1553	died July 7, 1568; and buried in St. Olave's, Hart-street, London
	William Turner, M.D.	Restored 1560	died May, 1573; buried in the Cathedral of St. Patrick, Dublin
43	Robert Weston, LL.D. ^o	1570.. .. .	died November 17, 1589; buried in St. Gregory's Church, near St. Paul's, Lond.
44	Valentine Dale, B.C. L. ^p	1574.. .. .	died 1607
45	John Herbert	(Master of Requests); 1589	died August 15, 1621; buried in the Cathedral—Wood's "Fasti "
46	Benjamin Heydon, D.D.	1602.. .. .	died July, 1631; buried in the Cathedral. Precentor of Christ Ch. Coll.
47	Richard Meredith, B.D.	November 21, 1607	December, 1640
48	Ralph Barlow, D.D.	September, 1621	
49	George Warburton, D.D. ^q	August 25, 1631—Reg. Curle	

50	Walter Raleigh, D. D.	..	January 13, 1641	..	..	..	..	..	died Oct. 10, 1616; bur. in the Cathedral before the Dean's stall, in the choir see list of Bishops died 1704; bur. in Trin. Coll. Chapel, Oxf.
51	Robert Creighton, D. D.	..	1650	..	..	..	..	..	died December 13, 1733
52	Ralph Bathurst, M. D.	..	June 28, 1670—Le Neve	..	..	..	..	..	to St. Asaph, 1736; to Worcester, 1743—Dudgale
53	William Grahame, D. D.	..	July 28, 1704	..	..	..	..	..	died Aug. 28, 1738; bur. in this Cathedral died January 13, 1766
54	Math. Brailsford, D. D.	..	July 23, 1713	..	..	..	..	..	died Feb. 9, 1799; bur. in this Cathedral died November 27, 1812
55	Isaac Madox, D. D.	..	1733	..	..	..	..	..	advanced to Gloucester 1813; to Lichfield and Coventry 1824
56	John Harris, D. D.	..	1736	..	..	..	..	..	died May 2, 1845, bur. in the Lady Chapel
57	Samuel Creswick, D. D.	..	November 6, 1739	..	..	..	..	..
58	Lord Francis Seymour	..	January 1766	..	..	..	..	..
59	George William Lukin, LL. D.	..	March 26, 1799	..	..	..	..	..
60	Hon. Henry Rider, D. D.	..	December 12, 1812	..	..	..	..	..
61	Edmund Goodenough, D. D.	..	September 7, 1831	..	..	..	..	..
62	Richard Jenkyns, D. D.	..	June 21, 1845	..	..	..	..	..

ⁱ Le Neve supposes that there was merely a contest between Bere and him for the election; but Godwin places him in 1418. Carent was chosen by fifty-two Canons; but the Pope in the meantime had bestowed the Deanery on La Bere, or Dalvere. The Bishop had confirmed Carent's election before the arrival of the Pope's bull.

^j Kennet, from the Reg. Wellen, says that, in 1487, he gave to the treasury of the Church a massive silver image of the Virgin, weighing one hundred and fifty-eight ounces. He was buried in the Cathedral, near Bishop Drokensford. See Wood's "Fasti."

^k Winter was called the nephew. But is supposed to have been the son of Cardinal Wolsey. See Wood's "Fasti." It should not be in any way prejudicial to the Bishop of Bath and Wells, the Deanery, or Dean and Chapter of Wells—MS. Harl. 7089.

^l At the close of the statute of attainder against him, a proviso was inserted that it should not be in any way prejudicial to the Bishop of Bath and Wells, the Deanery, or Dean and Chapter of Goodman and Turner; but mentions only their first appointments; and places Weston's in 1565. Godwin does not notice the restorations of Goodman and Turner; but mentions only their first appointments; and places Weston's in 1565.

^m A native of Morpeth, Northumberland, and author of "An English Herbal," 1552.

ⁿ He was Principal of Broadgate Hall, and Chancellor of Ireland.

^o He was Principal of Broadgate Hall, and Chancellor of Ireland.

^p Dale was of All Souls College, Oxford; Master of Requests; and Ambassador to France.

^q A native Cheshire; Dean of Gloucester; Chaplain to James I.—Wood's "Fasti."

^r Son of Sir Carew Raleigh, of Downton, Wiltshire; he was elder brother to Sir Walter Raleigh. He was taken prisoner on the surrender of Bridgewater, and confined in Ilchester gaol; thence removed to Banwell House, and afterwards to the Deanery at Wells, where he was murdered by his gaoler, who was tried for the same, but acquitted. Sir Simon Patrick published "Reliquiæ Raleighanæ," 1679. After Raleigh the Deanery was vacant fourteen years.

^s He was member of Trinity College, Oxford; of which he was chosen President, Sept. 1664. In 1691 he was nominated to the See of Bristol; but refused the appointment. The chapel of his college he built "in an elegant manner," in which he was buried, in 1704, in the eighty-fourth year of his age. Bathurst is praised by some authors for his poetical talents.

^t In commendam with the Bishopric of Llandaf. ^u Son of the Duke of Somerset.

^v Translated to Worcester; in the Cathedral of which city he is buried, and where a long epitaph commemorates his promotion and virtues.

LIST OF BOOKS, ESSAYS, AND PRINTS,
WHICH HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED RELATING TO
WELLS CATHEDRAL;

ALSO,

A CATALOGUE OF ENGRAVED PORTRAITS OF ITS
BISHOPS AND DEANS.

THIS LIST IS SUBJOINED TO GRATIFY THE BIBLIOGRAPHER, THE CRITICAL ANTIQUARY, AND THE ILLUSTRATOR; AS WELL AS TO SHEW, AT ONE VIEW, THE PRINCIPAL SOURCES WHENCE THE CONTENTS OF THE PRECEDING PAGES HAVE BEEN DERIVED, AND THE FULL TITLES OF THE WORKS REFERRED TO IN THE NOTES.

DIOCESE, SEE, AND CHURCH.

UNTIL the appearance of Mr. Britton's History, in 1826, the History and Antiquities of Wells Cathedral had been almost wholly neglected; and there was no published account that manifested either investigation or discrimination. Some gentleman, probably connected with the Church, had drawn up a manuscript account of it, intituled "A History of the Cathedral Church," &c.; one copy of which was in the possession of Bishop Beadon, and another was the property of the Rev. W. Phelps: but it is a very slight and imperfect performance. The principal archives of the Dean and Chapter were said to have been destroyed; consequently there was little opportunity of attaining any very detailed history of the See and Cathedral. Thus circumstanced, Mr. Britton's work, which included a concentration of the scattered evidence that had been preserved relating to the See and Church, may be regarded as the only one that then pretended to originality of matter, with independence of manner and impartiality. Besides ocular examination and local information, the facts and data of his work were chiefly derived from the following sources:—

Wharton, in "ANGLIA SACRA," Pars I. has published five tracts relative to the History of the See of Wells. The first of these is intituled "*Historia de Episcopis Bathoniensibus et Wellensibus*, a prima Sedis fundatione ad an. 1423. Authore Canonico Wellensi." This memoir was edited from a MS.

in the Cottonian Library, Vitell. E. 5. which comprises two distinct works, termed by Wharton *Historia Major* and *Historia Minor*, whence he has compiled a continued narrative. He states that there are copies of both Histories in a Chartulary belonging to the Dean and Chapter of Wells. To this tract is subjoined a *Continuation of the History of the Bishops of Bath and Wells*, from 1423 to 1540, drawn up by Wharton from various authorities.—The second piece is, “*Adami de Domersham Historia de contentione inter Episcopos Bathonienses et Monachos Glastonienses*, ab an. 1192 ad 1290.” This is taken from the same MS. with the preceding; and it is also included in the *History of Glastonbury*, MS. Cotton. Tiber. A. 5.—Next follow “*Successio Priorum Ecclesiæ Bathoniensis*,” and “*Successio Decanorum Ecclesiæ Wellensis*,” taken principally from the Registers of Wells. The second part of “*Anglia Sacra*” contains a short “*Life of Thomas de Beckington*, Bishop of Bath and Wells,” extracted from a MS. in the Cottonian Library, Titus A. 24, intituled “*Collocutiones VII. de Laudibus Will. de Wyckham*,” written by Thomas Chaundler, Chancellor of Wells, and afterwards of York, who died in 1489.

In “*CONCILIA MAGNÆ BRITANNIÆ ET HIBERNIÆ*, ab an. 446 ad 1717, a D. Wilkins,” are to be found the following documents relating to the Bishopric of Bath and Wells:—Vol. i. p. 200, *Synodus a R. Edwardo Sen. congregata*.—p. 259, *Concilium Bathoniense: in quo Edgarus in regem consecratus est*.—p. 569, *Bulla Honorii III. Papæ de dissolutione unionis Bathon. et Glaston. ecclesiar.*—p. 683, *Statutum Jocelini Episc. Bathon. pro reedificanda Eccles. S. Andreæ Well.*—Vol. ii. p. 89, *Literæ Archiep. Cant. Epi. Bath. et Well. suum constit. Vicarium*.—p. 94, *Archiep. Literæ Synod. Epo. B. et W. de subsidio terræ sanctæ a Rege ablato*.—p. 186, *Prioris Cant. Commissio de officialitate B. et W. Dioec. sede ibid. vacante*.—Ib. *Alia de eadem*.—p. 187, *Prior. Cant. Litera concessa B. et W. electo, de ejusd. confirmatione*.—Ib. *Alia de eadem*.—Ib. *Alia Dom. Regi de eadem*.—p. 188, *Alia Capituli Bath. de eadem confirmatione Epi. electi*.—p. 194, *Prior. et Cap. Cant. Literæ de citatione Episcoporum. ad consecrationem Epi. B. et W.*—p. 195, *Prior. Cant. Literæ Episcopo London. pro consecratione electi B. et W.*—Ib. *Eidem de consecratione Epi. B. et W.*—Ib. *Commissio Prior. et Cap. Cant. pro consecratione Ep. Assaven. et B. et W.*—p. 196, *Literæ Prior. et Cap. Cant. Archidiacono Cant. pro inthronizatione ejusd.*—Ib. *Prior. Cant. Literæ Epo. B. et W. pro inthronizatione sua*.—Ib. *Ejusd. Literæ ne Archidiaconus Cant. inthronizet Epum. B. et W.*—p. 197, *Ejusd. Literæ R. Poucyn ut inthronizet Epum. B. et W.*—p. 551, *Mandatum Johan. de Drokenesford, Epi. B. et W. de relavamine Academiæ Oxon. paupertate pressæ*.—p. 578, *Statutum Epi. Wellens. de Cancellarii Prælectionib. confirmat. per Clement. Papam Avin. 4 id. Jul. Pontif. 7.*—p. 670, *Literæ Archiepi. Cant. Epo. B. et W. de literis regiis (Ewd. III.) contra Archiep.*

—p. 681, *Literæ Regis Radulpho Epi. B. et W.*—p. 711, *Ordinatio Radulphi de Salopia Epi. B. et W. de dieb. festis in sua Dioecesi observand.*—Ib. *Ordinatio ejusd. de Constitutionalibus synod. Will. de Button Epi. Well. confirmand.*—p. 727, *Mandatum Rad. de Salopia Epi. Well. ad denunciand. excommunicationes juxta auctoritatem concilii provinc.*—p. 735, *Constitutiones Rad. de Salopia Epi. B. et W.*—Vol. iii. p. 12, *Archiep. Cant. Mandat. Epi. B. et W. super injuriis illatis Epi. Sarum.*—p. 49, *Mandat. Rad. de Salopia Epi. B. et W. contra officium episcopale exercentes.*—p. 596, *Mandat. Thomæ Epi. B. et W. ad inquirend. de miraculis fontis S. Johannis.*—Vol. iv. p. 414, *The Archbishop of Canterbury's Mandate and Commission for the Visitation of the Diocese of B. and W.*—p. 415, *Articles for the Cathedral Church of Wells.*—p. 425, *Suspensio ab Archiep. Cant. facta contra Decanum Wellens.*—p. 429, *Absolutio M. Hill procurat. B. et W.* :

The new edition of DUGDALE'S "MONASTICON ANGLICANUM," vol. ii. p. 274—285, contains notices of the Cathedral and Diocese of Wells, with accounts of the Bishops, and a catalogue of the Deans, collected from Wharton's *Anglia Sacra*; Godwin de *Præsulib. Anglican*; Le Neve's *Fasti Eccles. Angl.*; Gough's *Sepulchral Monuments*; Collinson's *History of Somerset, &c.*—In the same work are the following charters and records relating to Wells: No. I. *Carta Cynewulfi Regis.* (Godwin). No. II. *Carta Edwardi Reg. Confess. dicti.* (MS. Cott. Tiber. E. 8.) No. III. *Carta Edw. R. de Hlytton.* No. IV. *Carta Edw. R. alt.* No. V. *Carta Edw. R. tert.* No. VI. *Carta de Terra de Wedmore.* No. VII. *Carta Eadgithæ Edw. Conf. relicte de Terra de Merke.* No. VIII. *Carta Haraldî Reg.* No. IX. *Altera Carta Edw. Reg.* No. X. *Altera Eadgithæ Reginae.* No. XI. *Carta Willielmî I. Reg. de Villa de Wynesham.* (No. 1—11, MS. Harl. 6968, ex Registr. Cartar. penes Decan. et Cap. Wellens. desump.) No. XII. *Prædia Eccles. Wellens. ex Lib. Cens. voc. Doomesday Book. in Scaccar.* No. XIII. *Carta Jocelini de Tresminettes.* No. XIV. *Carta Reg. Stephani de Eccles. de Northcuri et de Perretona.* No. XV. *Carta Ricardi Reg. quod Bathon. Episcopi habeant Mineriam de Plumbo.* (No. 13—15, MS. Harl. 6968.) No. XVI. *Carte Ricardi I. Reg. Rain. Bathon. Episcopo ad fugand. per Com. Somerset.* (MS. Harl. 83, c. 10.) No. XVII. *Carta Henrici Abb. Glaston. de Eccles. de Pilton, qua donationem a Roberto Abb. Eccles. Wellensi factam, confirmat.* No. XVIII. *Carta Henrici Abb. qua Eccles. de Pilton Eccles. Wellensi concessit.* No. XIX. *Carta ejusd. de Eccles. de Suthbrente Archidiacono Wellens. concessa.* No. XX. *Carta Reginaldi Bathon. Epi. qua Donationes ab Henrico de Ecclesiis de Pilton et Suthbrent confirmat.* No. XXI. *Carta Savarici de Eccles. de Pilton concessa in usum communæ Wellens.* (No. 17—21, Regist. Wellens. I. vid. Adam. de Domersh. tom. i. a Hearne.) No. XXII. *Carta Reg. Jahannis de patronatu Eccles. Glaston. Jocelino Epo Bathon. et Glaston. concesso.* No.

XXIII. *Confirmatio Reg. Johannis super Unione Eccles. Glaston. cum Eccles. Bathon.* (No. 22, 23, Regist. Wellens. III, vid. Ad. de Domersh. t. i.) No. XXIV. *Carta Jocelini Bathon. Epi. de Manerio et Ecclesia de Wyniscumbe, concessis in dotem Eccles. Wellens.* (Regist. Wellens. I.) No. XXV. *Statuta Jocelini Epi. Bathon. acta in Capitulo Wellens.* 16 kal. Nov. 1242. (MS. Harl. 1682, fol. i.) No. XXVI. *Super privatione Adriani, de custodia Temporalium concessa.* (Rot. Pat. 10 Hen. 8. p. 2, m. 26, Rymer. Fœd. tom. xiii. p. 622.) No. XXVII. *Prima Ordinatio Decanatus Wellens.* (MS. Harl. 6964, p. 6, ex Reg. Johan. de Drokenesford Epi. B. et W. fol. 24.) No. XXVIII. *An Acte touching the Deane and Chapiter of Welles, to be one sole Chapiter of it selfe.* (Stat. 34, 35, Hen. 8. cap. 15, edit. Berthelet, Lond. 1551. fol.) No. XXIX. *De Scripto Epi. Bathon. irrotulato pro Dom. Rege.* (Rymer. Fœd. tom. xv. p. 171, a Rot. Claus. 2 Edw. 6. p. 4, n. 2.)—*Valor Ecclesiasticus Eccles. Cath. S. Andrea Wellens.* (Abstract of Return, 26, Hen. 8. First Fruits Office.)

In the "HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET," &c. By the Rev. John Collinson, F. A. S. Bath, 1791, 4to. vol. iii. is a catalogue, with short historical notices of the Bishops of Bath and Wells, from Godwin and other authorities; an account of the landed property belonging to the See; a list of the Dignitaries and Clergy of the Cathedral in 1791; and a description of the Church, with the principal monumental inscriptions.

"*A concise History of the Cathedral Church of St. Andrew, in Wells; to which is added, an abridgement of the Lives of the Bishops and Deans of the Church; and a Catalogue of the Monuments and Antiquities contained in the same.*" By John Davis, Verger of the Cathedral. Shepton Mallet, 1814. 12mo. A new edition of this "Guide," with some additions, in 1822.

"*History and Antiquities of the Cathedral Church and See of Wells;*" forming the 23d Part of Storer's "*Graphic and Historical Descriptions of the Cathedrals of Great Britain.*" 1818. 8vo. To these have been added. "*History and Antiquities of Wells Cathedral.*" By John Britton, F. S. A., 1823. 4to. Illustrated. "*History and Antiquities of Somersetshire.*" By the Rev. W. Phelps, A. B. F. S. A., 1839, vol. 2, pp. 9—87. Winkles "*Architectural and Picturesque Illustrations of Cathedral Churches.*" 3 vols. imp. 8vo.

BISHOPS.

"*A Catalogue of the Bishops of England, since the first planting of the Christian Religion in this Island; together with a brief History of their Lives and memorable Actions, so neere as can be gathered out of Antiquity,*" &c. By Francis Godwin. Lond. 615. 8vo. Bishops of Bath and Wells, p. 357-387. List of the Deans, p. 387, 8.)—This work was first published in a very

imperfect state in 1601. A Latin translation by the author appeared in 1616: of which there is a much improved edition, with a continuation by Dr. W. Richardson. Cantab. 1743. Fol. under the following title—"De Præsulibus Angliæ, commentarius," &c. (The account of the Bishops of Bath and Wells, p. 363-394.)—Among the MS. authorities used by Dr. Richardson in preparing this work for the press, he refers to one which is thus described: "MS in Bibliotheca Coll. S. Trin. Cantabrigiæ; complect. Episcoporum Bathonio-Wellensium historiam. sive historiæ totius tentamen, manu ipsius Godwini exaratum."

"*Fasti Ecclesiæ Anglicanæ*; or, an Essay towards deducing a regular Succession of all the principal Dignitaries in each Cathedral, &c. in England and Wales, from their first erection to the year 1715." By John Le Neve. 1716. Fol.—In this work will be found a list of the Bishops of Bath and Wells, of the Deans of Wells, and of the Precentors, Treasurers, and Chancellors, the Subdeans and Archdeacons of Wells, and the Archdeacons of Bath and Taunton. (See p. 31—47.)

Among the MSS. in the Library of R. Gough, F.A.S. are mentioned—"Extracts relating to the Bishops of Dorchester and Wells, and Abbots of Glastonbury;" folio: and "Catalogus Episcoporum Bathon. et Wellens. a F. Godwin, MS. Beaupre Bell, A.M." 4to.—In "*Historia Johannis de Trokelowe*" (p. 251, 378), published by Hearne, is an account of the canonization of Will. de Marchia, Bishop of Bath and Wells. "*Lives of the Bishops of Bath and Wells.*" Rev. J. H. Cassan.

PRINTS.

In "*A Plan of the City of Wells*, by Wm. Simes," engraved by Toms, 1736, is a perspective Elevation of the South Side of the Cathedral.

A South West view of the Cathedral, a sort of bird's-eye representation, without sky or ground. *R. Newcourt* del.; *D. King* sc.

A larger Print of nearly the same View, with sky and ground; but without name or date.

An Elevation of the West Front. *R. Newcourt* del.; *D. King* sc.

In Carter's "*Antient Sculpture and Painting*" are six engravings, representing the Statues of the West Front.

A bird's-eye View of the Cathedral, from the N.W. *T. Ford* del.; *Toms* sc. The arms of the See are held by Cupids in the sky; and a plan of the Church is engraved at one corner.

A South View of the Palace, &c. drawn and engraved by S. and N. Buck, 1733.

A N.W. View of the Cathedral, engraved in aquatint by *F. C. Lewis*, 1816, from a drawing by *J. Buckler*.

The same View is etched, in a reduced scale, by *J. C. Buckler*, for a quarto volume entitled "Views of the Cathedral Churches, &c." published by Nichols and Son, 1822.

The same View is again etched (small) by *Milles*, for Davis's Guide.

In Sir R. Hoare's "History," &c. "of Modern Wiltshire," Part I. is a view of *Bishops Still's Monument*. *J. Buckler* del.; *G. Hollis* sc.

A View of the *Nave* is published in "The Beauties of England;" engraved by *Roffe*, from a drawing by the Rev. *Thos. Streatfield*.

In Gough's "Sepulchral Monuments" is a View of *Lady Lisle's Monument* in this Cathedral: also two Views of the Statues and Tomb of *Bishop Beckington*.

Illustrations to Dugdale's *Monasticon*.

Illustrations to Britton's *History and Antiquities*, 4to.

Illustrations to Winkle's *Architectural and Picturesque illustrations of Cathedrals*.

Illustrations to Phelps' *History of Somerset*,

West View, with part of the Deanery, lith. *G. Hawkins*, sc. *T. L. Walker*, del. pub. by *Backhouse*, Wells.

North-West View, engraved, pub. by *Ball*, Wells.

ENGRAVED PORTRAITS OF THE BISHOPS OF BATH AND WELLS.

1. RICHARD FOX.—1. *Vertue* sc. 1723, from Johannes Corvus; in Fiddes' "Life of Cardinal Wolsey."—2. *G. Glover* sc.—3. *Sturt* sc.—4. *J. Faber* sc. large 4to. mezz.—5. A small oval, for Knight's "Life of Erasmus."
2. THOMAS WOLSEY.—1. *Faber* sc. from Holbein, 4to. mezz.; with the Label "Ego et meus Rex." 4to.—2. *Elstracke* sc. 4to.—3. *D. Loggan* sc.—4. In Holland's "Heroologia." 8vo.—5. *W. Marshall* sc. in Fuller's "Holy State."—5. *P. Fourdrinier* sc. half length, in Fiddes' "Life of Wolsey."—6. *Houbraken* sc. in Birch's "Lives of Illust. Persons."—7. *Des Rochers* sc. 4to.—8. *Vertue* sc. small oval, inscribed C. W.—9. *De Larmessin* sc.—10. *Sheppard* sc. folio.—11. *R. White* sc. folio.
3. JOHN STILL.—*J. Jones* sc. 1789, from a Portr. at Cambridge University; sm. mezz.
4. JAMES MONTAGU.—*Elstracke* sc.—*S. Pass* sc. *Holland* exc. sm. folio.—In "Heroologia," 8vo. A Copy in Boissard.
5. ARTHUR LAKE.—*Payne* sc. prefixed to his "Works," 1629, folio.—*W. Hollar* sc. pref. to his "Sermons," 1641, 4to.—A Copy in Boissard.
6. WILLIAM LAUD.—*W. Hollar* sc. from Vandyck, 1640, 4to.—*D. Loggan* sc. from the same. Large half sheet.—

- Vertue* sc. from the same. One of the set of Loyalists.—*Burghers* sc. In the Frontispiece to the "Catalogue of the Bodleian Library."—*W. Marshall* sc. 12mo.—*Id.* sc. small, ruling, pref. to Fuller's "Argument against the Ecclesiastical Commissioners," 1641.—*Pieters* sc. sm. 4to.—*White* sc. folio.—*Sturt* sc.—*Huybrechts* sc. oval. 8vo.—*Moncornet* sc. 8vo.—*Watson* sc. from a Portr. in the Houghton Coll.—*R. Dunkarton*, sc. mezz. 8vo.—*Audran* sc. folio.—With a View of his Execution, folio.—Scarce wood cut, representing Laud and Henry Burton, whole lengths. The Prelate is represented vomiting up his own works, and Burton holding his head. Doggrel verses underneath.—Rare wood cut, with Insc. "Only Canonical Prayers: no Afternoon Sermons," 4to.—Half length, with a view of his House in Broad street, Reading, in Man's "Hist. of Reading," 1816.
7. WALTER CURLE.—*T. Cecill* sc. folio.—*M. Droeshout* sc.
 8. PETER MEWS.—*D. Loggan* sc. folio.—Two oval prints, without engraver's name.
 9. THOMAS KENN.—*Vertue* sc. 8vo.—*Drapentier* sc.—*White* sc. Among the Seven Bishops.
 10. WILLIAM BEVERIDGE.—*Vander Gucht* sc. from B. Ferrers. L. folio.—*Id.* sc. pref. to his "Sermons," 8vo.—*W. Sherwin* sc. mezz. 4to. and 12mo.—*J. Simon* sc. from Richardson, mezz.—*Sturt* sc. 8vo.—*Vertue* sc. from T. Murray, folio.
 11. RICHARD KIDDER.—*Clamp* sc. 8vo. from S. Harding.
 12. GEORGE HOOPER.—*Smith* sc. from Kneller, mezz.—*G. White* sc. from T. Hall. Noble remarks, that the mixture of mezzotinto with engraving was first practised in this print.
 13. EDWARD WILLES.—*Faber* sc. from T. Hudson, mezz. folio.
 14. RICHARD BEADON.—*Facius* sc. folio. from L. F. Abbott.
 15. CHARLES MOSS.—S. W. Reynolds, sc. from Hoppner, R. A.
 15. GEORGE HENRY LAW.—*H. Meyer* sc. from Sir William Beechey, mezz. folio.—*Draper* lith. 4to.
 16. HON. RICHARD BAGOT.—Mezz. fol.—*J. Burnett*, *F. R. S.* sc.

PORTRAITS OF THE DEANS OF WELLS.

1. THOMAS CROMWELL, EARL OF ESSEX.—*Filian* sc. 4to.—*Hollar* sc. from Holbein, 4to.—*Houbraken* sc. in Birch's "Lives."—*Mainwaring* sc. mezz.—*Peacham* sc. from Holbein.—*L. Schiavonetti* sc. in Harding's "Shakspeare."—*R. White* sc. in Burnett's "Hist. of the Reformation."—In "Heroologia."
2. RALPH BATHURST.—*Loggan* sc. folio.—*Walker* sc. pref. to his "Life by Warton, 1761, 8vo.
3. RICHARD JENKYN, D. D.—*Lufston* sc. from H. P. Briggs, mezz. folio.

APPENDIX.

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS TO A FUND

FOR THE

RESTORATION OF WELLS CATHEDRAL,

1842.

	£	s.	d.
Archdeacon Brymer	1000	0	0
The late Dean (Dr. Goodenough)	500	0	0
Archdeacon Law	100	0	0
Late Rev. T. Heberden	100	0	0
F. H. Dickinson, Esq., M. P.	100	0	0
A. G. E. F. (by J. H. Markland, Esq.)	100	0	0
Messrs. Lovells	105	0	0
Miss Gould	105	0	0
Sir Alexander Hood, Bart.	50	0	0
Ambrose Lethbridge, Esq.	50	0	0
Late W. Miles, Esq.	50	0	0
W. Miles, Esq., M. P.	50	0	0
Lady Vassall	50	0	0
Mrs. King	50	0	0
Miss Payne	50	0	0
Miss Knollis	50	0	0
Rev. Edw. Edgell	50	0	0
Rev. C. M. Mount	50	0	0
Rev. J. H. Pinder	50	0	0
Rev. R. Watson	50	0	0
J. F. Luttrell, Esq.	50	0	0
The Lady Frances Trail	50	0	0
Mrs. Charlotte Ramsden	30	0	0
Carried forward	£2840	0	0

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward ..	2840	0	0
Late Sir J. Mordaunt, Bart. ..	25	0	0
Lieut.-General Sir J. Bathurst ..	25	0	0
T. D. Acland, Esq., M. P. ..	25	0	0
Late Rev. G. May Coleridge ..	25	0	0
Wm. Hoskins, Esq. ..	25	0	0
Thomas Hoskins, Esq. ..	25	0	0
Edward Parfitt, Esq. ..	21	0	0
Hon. and Rev. Lord John Thynne ..	20	0	0
Jos. Neeld, Esq., M. P. ..	20	0	0
Rev. W. D. Willis ..	20	0	0
Rob. S. Holford, Esq. ..	20	0	0
Rev. Dr. Jenkyns ..	20	0	0
Mrs. Jenkyns ..	10	0	0
Rev. H. Hoskins ..	10	10	0
Late Rev. Dr. Hoskins, ..	10	0	0
Rev. C. Deedes ..	10	0	0
Rev. R. V. Law ..	10	0	0
Rev. F. B. Portman ..	10	0	0
Late Rev. J. Trevelyan ..	10	0	0
Mrs. Trevelyan ..	10	0	0
Rev. J. S. Horner ..	10	0	0
Rev. G. Vanburgh ..	10	0	0
J. M. Paget, Esq. ..	10	0	0
Capt. Ernest Perceval ..	10	0	0
Rev. E. J. Crawley ..	10	0	0
Rev. A. Foster ..	10	0	0
Rev. W. James ..	10	0	0
Rev. T. Mason ..	10	0	0
Hon. and Rev. W. T. Law (for the Window) ..	10	0	0
J. S. Somerville, Esq. ..	10	0	0
Rev. Dr. Keate ..	10	0	0
Robt. Keate, Esq. ..	10	0	0
Rev. J. J. Toogood ..	5	0	0
Miss Palmer ..	5	0	0
Late Rev. H. Parsons ..	5	0	0
Mrs. Armstrong ..	5	0	0
Late Rev. J. Lukin ..	3	8	0
Rev. C. O. Mayne ..	3	0	0
Late Thomas Bunn, Esq. ..	2	0	0
The Misses Parfitt ..	2	0	0
Miss Yarrow ..	1	4	6
Rev. W. F. Neville (for the Window) ..	1	0	0
H. M. Clarke, Esq. ..	1	0	0
Whitcombe, Esq. (for the Window) ..	1	0	0
Carried forward ..	£3346	2	6

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward ..	3346	2	6
Rev. W. Feetham	0	10	0
Rev. H. D. Hilton	1	10	0
T. Thring, Esq. (for the Window)	1	0	0
Rev. R. Moody	1	0	0
A Curate	1	0	0
T. B., senr.	1	0	0
Mr. Noad	1	0	0
Collected in the Church from casual Visitors ..	89	13	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3442	16	0
Disbursements for Work in the Nave, Aisles, and Lady Chapel	2201	6	10
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance in hand ..	£1241	9	2

Wells, August 28th, 1847.

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THE

**Restoration of the Interior of Wells Cathedral.**

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IN consequence of two munificent Donations, viz., of £1000 from ARCHDEACON BRYMER, and £500 from the late DEAN (DR. GOODENOUGH), a Subscription for the purpose of restoring the interior of the Cathedral Church of Wells, was opened in the year 1842, and amounted to £3442 16s.

By the aid of monies thus raised, much has been already done towards the restoration of the Fabric to its original character. But further proceedings have been unavoidably suspended, on account of the inadequacy of the fund to complete that part of the Edifice which requires more than simple repair or restoration, and which consequently must be attended with greater expense, viz., the *Choir*; for this alone the outlay of a sum not less, (probably more), than £6000 will be necessary.

The Balance remaining from the former Subscription amounts to £1241 9s. 2d. To this sum the DEAN and CHAPTER have undertaken to add £1000, the present DEAN £300, and MRS. JENKYNs £200; and promises of further Benefactions have been given.

Upon these grounds the Dean and Chapter are encouraged to hope that they may be enabled to continue the work of restoring to its ancient magnificence a great monument of the piety and architectural taste of former ages.—With this view, they have already obtained from MR. FERREY a design for refitting the Choir; and anxious that a work requiring peculiar skill may be executed in the best manner possible, they have also engaged the services of MR. SALVIN;—both men distinguished for their knowledge and experience in Church buildings.

The Dean and Chapter, under these circumstances, venture again to appeal to the friends of the Church,—to the lovers of Ecclesiastical Architecture,—and particularly to those connected with the County of Somerset who feel an interest in preserving one of its most admired objects.

If this appeal, earnestly but respectfully made, meet with a favourable response, and a design generally satisfactory can be obtained, the Dean and Chapter will be ready to take immediate steps for completing the restoration of the interior of the Cathedral.

RICHARD JENKYNs, *Dean.*

*Wells, August 28th, 1847.*

*N. B.—Contributions will be thankfully received by the Dean, Archdeacon Brymer, and Messrs. Stuckey's Banking Company, Wells.*

*List of Subscribers to the Fund for refitting the Choir of Wells Cathedral, September 20th, 1847.*

|                                            | £     | s. | d. |
|--------------------------------------------|-------|----|----|
| The Dean and Chapter .. ..                 | 1000  | 0  | 0  |
| The Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells .. ..    | 100   | 0  | 0  |
| The Dean £300 .. ..                        | 500   | 0  | 0  |
| Mrs. Jenkyns £200 .. ..                    |       |    |    |
| The Right Hon. Henry Hobhouse .. ..        | 50    | 0  | 0  |
| Rev. Dr. H. Jenkyns, Canon of Durham .. .. | 50    | 0  | 0  |
| John Jenkyns, Esq., Botley Hill .. ..      | 50    | 0  | 0  |
| Mrs. Gaisford, Ch. Ch. Oxford .. ..        | 20    | 0  | 0  |
| Mrs. Provis Wickham, Wells .. ..           | 10    | 0  | 0  |
| Miss Wentworth Wickham .. ..               | 10    | 0  | 0  |
| Mrs. Tudway, Wells .. ..                   | 20    | 0  | 0  |
| Miss Tudway .. ..                          | 10    | 0  | 0  |
| Carried forward ..                         | £1820 | 0  | 0  |

|                                                                     |                   |       |    |   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------|----|---|
|                                                                     | Brought forward.. | 1820  | 0  | 0 |
| Miss Henrietta Tudway .. ..                                         | ..                | 10    | 0  | 0 |
| Mrs Beadon, Wells .. ..                                             | ..                | 20    | 0  | 0 |
| Rev. W. H. Turner, Trent .. ..                                      | ..                | 25    | 0  | 0 |
| Rev. J. H. Pinder (2d. Sub.) .. ..                                  | ..                | 20    | 0  | 0 |
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September 29th, 1847.

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